

Lottery success spells end for cancer charity's £1.5m fundraiser

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of small charities and fundraising schemes stand to lose millions of pounds in public donations as a direct result of the National Lottery, it was claimed last night.

Stuart Etherington, chief executive of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, said many charities that raised funds from games of chance, such as raffles and scratchcard games, had

already seen a drop in their incomes. "The assumption must be that charities raising funds in a similar way to the lottery must be hardest hit."

Tenovus, a leading cancer charity based in Cardiff, said yesterday it was closing its monthly lottery game, which raises £1.5 million a year and provides eight full-time and 500 part-time jobs.

Michael Downs, the charity's organising secretary, said Tenovus, whose patron is Princess Margaret, expected its annual in-

come of £3 million to halve as a result. There had been a 25 per cent drop in ticket sales since the National Lottery was launched in November.

Mr Downs plans to ask Stephen Dorrell, the Heritage Secretary, for compensation to make up for the shortfall in its income. "We simply could not compete against the massive prizes and advertising budgets that Camelot, the organisers of the National Lottery, had at their disposal."

Tenovus offered a monthly top

prize of £25,000, compared with the multimillion-pound jackpots of the National Lottery on-line game and a top prize of £50,000 on its scratchcard game. The charity will continue its operations on a smaller scale.

The Lotteries Council, representing 150 small charity and sports club lotteries, said yesterday that it had repeatedly warned the Government that the National Lottery could kill local fund-raising draws. Ron Allen, the general executive, said that takings among his mem-

bers had declined by 15 to 20 per cent since the launch of the National Lottery.

Steve Walmsley, commercial manager at third division Rochdale Football Club, said his weekly draw had lost 2,600 of its 12,500 members since the launch of the National Lottery and that it was now losing 30 to 40 more a week.

"In the last couple of weeks we have managed to recruit more new members than we have lost, but the net fall in our income will still be £80,000 this year," he said.

Miriam Lewis, who runs a fund-raising lottery for the Bury Hospice in Greater Manchester, said that it was clear that money was being diverted from local charities to the National Lottery.

Alan Michael, a Labour spokesman, tabled a Commons early-day motion yesterday calling on the Government to find ways of meeting Tenovus's shortfall. "The Government needs to make sure that charity lotteries are not trampled underfoot by it," he said.

The National Council for Volun-

tary Organisations is due to unveil details on Friday of a survey into the threat the National Lottery is posing to charities. In December it predicted a £172 million loss in charitable donations as a result of the lottery.

The Heritage Department declined to comment. Delivering a lecture in Liverpool, Mr Dorrell said the lottery had raised roughly £300 million for the five good causes of the arts, sports, heritage, charities and the millennium celebrations.

Biggest reform of Army since war

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY 140,000 regular and part-time soldiers are to be drawn under a single command from April 1 in the biggest reorganisation of the British Army since the Second World War.

One commander, General Sir John Wilsey, will be responsible for most of the Army's fighting force and all the combat equipment at home and throughout the world. He will have a budget of just under £3 billion. The restructuring of the Army, with a single Land Command, was ordered after it became clear that British troops would be increasingly home-based. With the end of the Cold War and the withdrawal of half the troops from Germany, the Army has had to face up to different priorities.

As commander-in-chief United Kingdom Land Forces, a role which will be scrapped from April 1, General Wilsey has had to save more than £9 million from his budget, after last year's Frontline First defence costs study which resulted in widespread cuts in the support services.

The new Land Command, which will be based at Erskine barracks at Wilton, near Salisbury, will be responsible for all operational troops in Britain, Germany, Nepal and Brunei, and also the training teams in Canada, Belize and Kenya.

Labour continues assault on moral high ground

Blair plans to remove incentives for solo parents

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR made another determined bid for the moral high ground last night as he made clear that a "stable and well-balanced" family with two parents was preferable to one headed by a lone mother.

In what will be seen as another attempt to steal the Tories' clothes, Mr Blair also signalled that a Labour government would remove financial incentives that favour lone parents in a bid to keep families together.

Last week the Labour leader made an equally daring foray into Tory waters with a speech presenting his party as the one of duty and responsibility. Hailing Labour as the "party of the family", Mr Blair risked alienating leftwingers by insisting that children had a much better chance in life if brought up by two parents.

Speaking yesterday at a conference on women in London, Mr Blair also made clear that New Labour had no time for "political correctness". He insisted that women's issues should not be cordoned off into a special compartment. But Mr Blair indicated that a Labour government would implement policies to help working mothers. "I have no doubt that the

family is and will remain the essential foundation of a strong and stable society," Mr Blair said yesterday. It was here that children learnt the basic moral values of right and wrong, social discipline and a sense of responsibility, he said.

"It is a matter of common sense to say that a child brought up in a stable and well-balanced family is more likely to develop well than one who is not; and that it can be much harder, financially and emotionally, to bring up children alone."

Mr Blair's comments came after figures from the General Household Survey showed that the proportion of families with dependent children headed by a lone parent increased from 8 per cent in 1971 to 22 per cent in 1993.

Last July Mr Blair infuriated many Labour MPs by using a television interview to criticise single mothers who deliberately had children outside stable relationships. He insisted then that it was "best for kids to be brought up in a stable environment with two parents". Last night sources close to the Labour leader emphasised that Mr Blair had no intention of stigmatising



Tony Blair, reclaiming language of responsibility

single parents or their children.

Mr Blair also said: "I believe it speaks volumes for the intellectual arrogance of the Right through the 1980s and 1990s that they believe they have a monopoly on the language of right and wrong, duty and responsibility and that for a Labour MP to speak this language is somehow to concede political ground ... This is Labour language ... These are Labour values."

In his speech to a conference organised by She, Mr Blair said: "The Conservatives came to power as the 'party of the family'. But they are no more

the party of strong families than they are the party of law and order or the party of economic competence."

Mr Blair outlined areas where Labour would help working families. These included flexible benefits to get round the "absurd" situation where if a man loses his job, he loses unemployment benefit if his wife goes to work.

A Labour government would also introduce intensive training sessions for women who take career breaks.

Household survey, page 3
New Labour woman, page 10

Two-week car tax amnesty ended

BY JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE traditional two-week amnesty after a tax disc runs out is to be ended under a clampdown on excise dodgers. An "off-road licence" costing only £5 a year has also been proposed for the owners of vintage cars and others who use their vehicles only rarely.

The Government announced yesterday that all 30 million vehicles in Britain will have to be licensed throughout the year from 1998. At present owners of vehicles kept off the road for more than a month are allowed to be unlicensed for part of the year.

Ice-cream vendors, many motor-caravanners, owners of rarely driven vintage cars, and secondhand car dealers, who currently do not need licences for their forecourt vehicles, had feared they would have to pay a full year's duty under the new system of "continuous licensing".

Yesterday, however, they learned that there will be an "off road licence" which will have only an administrative fee of £5 a year.

The proposals are aimed at clamping down on road-tax dodgers, who cost the taxpayer about £160 million a year. There are thought to be up to three million vehicles kept illegally on the roads.

The Government is also to reduce the paperwork on car sales. The buyer and seller will fill in a joint form for the licensing agency in Swansea, rather than each having to inform the agency.

Moderate teachers in class size protest

Gillian Shephard's peace offensive in schools appeared to be collapsing last night as it emerged that moderate teachers are preparing to take industrial action against classes with more than 31 pupils. The Education Secretary faces the growing threat of a revolt by the Association of Teachers and Lecturers against spending cuts in state schools. The union has taken national action only once in the past 15 years, triggering the demise of John Patten, the former Education Secretary.

The association, the most temperate classroom union and regarded by ministers as a barometer of the profession, is expected at its annual conference in Harrogate next month to authorise teachers to refuse to take classes that exceed union limits after a ballot. One third of primary classes has more than 30 pupils and the proportion is expected to climb as threatened cuts begin to bite.

Examiner too severe

Pupils at Portchester Community School, Hampshire, were denied places at sixth-form college and paid for tutors and night classes they did not need after an examiner marked their GCSE English papers too severely. All marks awarded by the anonymous examiner had to be reviewed after nearly a fifth of the school's candidates were upgraded.

Howard backs life term

The Home Secretary told MPs last night he was opposed to scrapping the mandatory life sentence for murder despite overwhelming support for abolition from senior judges. Michael Howard said that a change would send out "a signal that public disapproval of murder was no longer as strong as it had been in the past".

IRA talks face delay

Ministerial talks with Sinn Féin were delayed last night as the Government sought fresh clarification of the Republican negotiating position after concern that Gerry Adams still intended to link the decommissioning of IRA weapons to "British demilitarisation". The Sinn Féin president had earlier indicated that he would not make such a demand.

Award for Gateshead

Gateshead has been honoured for its public art programme with an award from the National Art Collections Fund. The awards, in their ninth year, are given for outstanding achievement in the presentation and interpretation of the visual arts. Since 1986, Gateshead council has commissioned 17 works of art and there are plans for an avant-garde gallery.

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Film guide pulped after Halliwell family protests

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

UNSOLD copies of Hodder & Stoughton's new Radio Times Film & Video Guide are to be destroyed because parts were found to be similar to Halliwell's Film Guide, the film-buff's bible. Even the errors in Leslie Halliwell's guide were reproduced in the new publication.

John Walker, Editor of Halliwell's, said that some of the wording in the reviews and production details were virtually identical. Halliwell's review of *Sanctuary*, a 1972 film starring Harry Secombe, with the *Radio Times* guide. Halliwell's: "A shy Welsh schoolmaster emigrates to the Australian outback. Simple-minded, uninspired, predictable family comedy for star fans." The *Radio Times* guide: "Secombe finds the perfect role

as a shy Welsh schoolmaster emigrating to the Australian outback in this simple family comedy film, mainly for his fans." For *Walkabout*, Halliwell's 7th edition misspelt the name of the Aboriginal actor David Gulpili as Gulpilli. That spelling appears in the *Radio Times* guide.

Action was taken by HarperCollins, publishers of Halliwell's, and Ruth Halliwell and Mr Walker, the copyright owners. In settling a High Court copyright infringement action, Hodder & Stoughton, publishers of the *Radio Times* Film & Video Guide, paid "a substantial sum" in damages and costs. They pledged that booksellers will be asked to return remaining stocks of the publication, priced at £14.99, and

they will be pulped. The guide has been withdrawn until a 1998 edition.

The book was written by Derek Winnert, the film reviewer for the *Radio Times* until three weeks ago. The *Radio Times* was not involved in preparing the guide and is not implicated in the copyright infringement.

Mr Walker said: "I find it extraordinary. Leslie Halliwell spent 20 years writing his renowned film guide. It is most unfair that competing film guides should benefit from all this painstaking and time-consuming work."

Martin Neild, managing director of Hodder & Stoughton, said that this was the only book they had done with the author, and it was before the current Hodder management took over.

Panorama

Continued from page 1
Roy Barber, who succeeded Mr James as chairman and asked the DTI to appoint inspectors, said he thought it "highly unlikely" that Mr Aitken would have known what was going on. Mr Aitken, whose career was nearly wrecked five months ago over claims that he lied about who paid the bill for a stay at the Ritz Hotel in Paris, began the day by putting out a statement rejecting criticism of his conduct in a report in *The Independent*.

But later, Mr James was questioned about Mr Aitken's claims that he had left the relevant board meeting before the contract was discussed and did not know that the arms were going to Iran. Mr James said: "Well, I think that's rubbish, because his name is on the minutes." Mr James said the official destination of the arms was Singapore, but the company's directors knew where they were really going. "It was quite clearly going to Iran. It was common knowledge it was going to Iran," he said. The controversy centred on the £13 million order known as

Aitken denies arms link

pore), under which BMARC supplied components for naval guns to CIS in Singapore. Mr James told a Commons committee three years ago that Project Lisi involved the shipment of arms, ammunition and tooling to Iran, via Singapore.

In his evidence then to the Trade and Industry Select Committee, Mr James claimed that three Astra divisions traded with Iraq during the arms embargo, and spoke of pressure from investors and bankers with military and government connections, a group he dubbed "the Savvy mafia".

But Mr Aitken said he had never been briefed on Project Lisi. As far as he was concerned — and other directors of the failed company — it was a straightforward contract with a Singapore company. "Seven years after the event, I have no recollection of ever having heard about 'Project Lisi' or read about it in company reports." But the minister's defence was shaken by Mr James in a BBC radio interview. He said Project Lisi had been discussed at a board meeting attended by Mr Ait-

Stephen Fry sued for breach of contract

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

STEPHEN FRY, who walked out of the West End play *Cell Mates*, is being sued for up to £500,000 damages by the producers, Triumph Proscenium, who accuse him of breach of contract.

Fry's solicitor said yesterday that a 5-page psychiatrist's report on his client had been given to the producers of *Cell Mates* as evidence that the actor is ill. The producers, whose losses will be covered by insurance if the actor proves to have been ill, are calling for Fry to be medically examined.

A spokesman for the producers said: "Some while after Stephen Fry's disappearance it was suggested that his departure was the result of illness. This, however, has not been established."

He added that Fry's departure "had a very damaging effect on ticket sales and caused the show to close prematurely with large financial losses."

Fry's solicitor, Anthony Julius, said the producers had had for a week a full psychiatrist's report "which establishes beyond any doubt that he was and is ill and could not have continued in the play".

He added that the report was produced by an "independent, highly respected psychiatrist". "The only effect of litigation will be to retard his recovery. He is unwell and requires treatment."

Cell Mates was to have run at the Albery Theatre until May but closed last Saturday after Fry fled to Belgium.

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Crowd control was exercised by police and by men built like wardrobes; the crowd behaved itself



Reggie Kray at his twin's funeral, with "Mad" Frankie Fraser of the rival Richardson gang at his right hand

Thousands bid a grand farewell to the villain turned local hero

Continued from page 1

parlour in a Rolls-Royce shortly after the glass-fronted hearse decorated with gilt pulled up.

On the side of the leading car was Reggie's wreath, with the message "To the other half of me" boldly spelt out in white chrysanthemums. On the roof, the undertaker's men balanced a huge square wreath whose centrepiece was a rather bad painting of the twins and bearing the message: "Ron misunderstood, but simply the best," from a certain Rita. On another car, another boxing glove, the time from Durham jail, and labelled: "To Ronnie with love and affection from Linda Calvey, Tina Malloy and the girls at H wing." Calvey was jailed for life in 1991 for murdering her lover.

Crowd control was exercised partly by police, and partly by men built like wardrobes inside dark boxy suits, with close-cropped bullet heads and gold rings the size of ingots on every finger. The crowd, by now several thousand strong, behaved itself.

The dark oak coffin topped by a cross of white flowers was borne out by Charlie Kray and five other men representing what might be called areas of influence in north, south, east and west London. One was Freddie Foreman, out on parole after doing time for the Security Express robbery. It was loaded into a glass-sided Victorian-style hearse drawn by six black-plumed horses.

The cortege moved off, preceded by Paul Keys, the head

undertaker, in black silk top, frock coat and rolled umbrella. Behind him, at walking pace, there followed a procession fit for a deceased monarch. First the hearse, then a blue Home Office Peugeot estate car with Reggie squeezed in the back seat between a male and female prison officer, handcuffed to the male and greeting the crowd that pressed against the car windows with his right hand. Behind Reggie stretched a line of no fewer than 26 Daimler limousines, each packed with mourners.

As the quarter-mile long procession wound its way through the crowded backstreets, it paused briefly at the bottom of Vallance Road, where Violet Kray brought up

her boys. The hearse had difficulty making its way along St Matthew's Row to the church gate, such was the press of spectators who cheered and whistled as Reggie left his car. It took 25 minutes to get the coffin out of the hearse and into a church filled with 300 mourners. Another 100 stood outside listening on a public address system.

A record of Frank Sinatra singing *My Way* was played, followed by another of Whitney Houston singing *I Will Always Love You* before the mourners themselves sang *Fight The Good Fight* and *Morning Has Broken*. The order of service bore an additional message to that of Reggie, stating that Charlie and Reg wished included in

the service "friends who cannot be here today, friends from Broadmoor and prisons... They are with us in spirit."

As the procession emerged from the church the crowd again became animated, chanting "Reggie, Reggie, free Reggie, Reggie out" and almost coming to blows in their fight for souvenir hymn sheets being handed out at the gate. Police fought to clear a path as the hearse, now draped with a new floral tribute spelling out Ronnie's self-bestowed title "The Colonel", set off on its two-hour journey to Chingford where thousands more crowded round the cemetery gates. Police and a contingent of walking wardrobes would let in only bona fide friends and mourners — and all reporters and television crews. Brother Charlie had wanted a quiet funeral; Reggie wanted, and got, the works.

Five vanloads of police lurked in the trees close to the grave as Ronnie was lowered into the earth beside his parents Charlie and Violet, and next to his sister-in-law Frances, who killed herself a year after marrying Reggie.

Within minutes of the coffin disappearing into its hole, four police motorcyclists with blue lights flashing escorted the blue Peugeot estate car at great speed out of the back gate. Reggie, on his first outing since Violet died in 1983, was on his way back to his cell, probably wondering whether, when his time came, he, too, would get the works.

Simple service with no hymns for West

By Bill Frost

FREDERICK WEST was cremated yesterday after what was described as a simple family service without hymns.

The private funeral of the 53-year-old builder from Gloucester, who had been charged with 12 murders, took place at Canley crematorium, Coventry. There was only a handful of mourners, including West's son, Stephen, and daughter Mae.

The service was conducted

by the Rev Robert Simpson, priest-in-charge of St Mary's in Newent, Gloucestershire, who said afterwards: "We believe in a God who receives those who turn to him in repentance."

It was announced yesterday that Detective Constable Hazel Savage, who played a leading role in the Cromwell Street murder inquiry, is to face disciplinary proceedings over an allegation that she tried to sell her story for £1 million.

Stepfather jailed for murder convinces doctors of innocence

By A Staff Reporter

A LORRY driver, who has spent his time in prison studying the human brain to prove he did not murder a disabled child, is expected to be freed by the Court of Appeal within the next two weeks after convincing doctors he could not have killed her.

Kevin Callan was jailed three years ago at Manchester Crown Court for murdering Amanda Allman, his four-year-old stepdaughter, at their home in Hyde, Greater Manchester. He was convicted mainly on the evidence of Dr Geoffrey Garrett, a Home Office pathologist, who concluded that the child, who suffered from cerebral palsy, was probably shaken to death. From his prison cell in Wakefield Prison, Callan, who left school with no qualifications, set about proving to Crown lawyers that the child's injuries were consistent with a fall and not with being shaken. Yesterday he was told that the Crown would not oppose his appeal. A hearing in the Court of Appeal will be arranged within the next two weeks.

Callan, 36, said he found the girl unconscious in the bathroom and tried to revive her with the kiss of life. He said she had fallen earlier from a



Amanda, left, and Callan, convicted of her murder



slide which may have caused two brain haemorrhages.

The girl's mother, Lesley Allman, stood by Callan and told the court that he was "a kind man" and a good father to Amanda. She was "doll-like" after her growth was hindered by cerebral palsy.

Since his imprisonment in January 1992, Callan has combed through every available medical book on the brain. He has corresponded with the world's leading neurosurgeons and by March last year two eminent neuropathologists agreed with his conclusions.

It was a report by one of these pathologists, Dr Phillip Wrightson from New Zealand, that enabled Callan to approach the Court of Appeal,

which agreed to fund another report into the case by Dr Helen Whitwell, a leading neuropathologist in this country. Leave to appeal was granted last November.

Callan's solicitor, Campbell Malone, said: "The prosecution obtained their own reports which confirmed what Mr Callan has always maintained throughout, that he had not shaken this girl to death."

"The injuries that led to her death were more likely to have been caused by direct impact and not by shaking. The explanation given by Mr Callan at the time of his arrest and trial was that the child's death had been caused by a fall and that as she suffered from cerebral palsy she was prone to falls."

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Missing man linked to fugitive

By Stewart Tandler and Mike Horsnell

THE disappearance of a south London financial adviser is being linked to John Scripps, the escaped British prisoner being held in Singapore and suspected of up to five murders.

Scotland Yard is investigating links between Scripps and Timothy McDowall, 28, a businessman, who was reported missing in Mexico or southern California in January while on holiday. Police have discovered that cash was transferred from Mr McDowall's account to a company run by Scripps in Singapore around the time Mr McDowall disappeared.

The account was in the name of John Martin, a name that Scripps has used over the years. Detectives know that Scripps was in Mexico at the end of the year and they fear Mr McDowall could have been murdered.

Scripps, 35, from Lechworth, Hertfordshire, has been charged with murdering a South African, cutting up his body and throwing it into Singapore harbour.

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Why a wayward Russian Bear put jumbo to flight

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

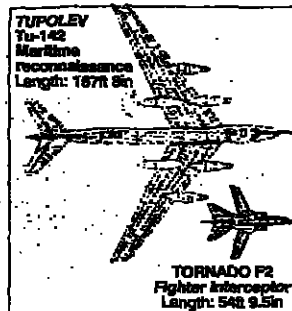
A RUSSIAN bomber with a crew who could not speak English blundered around the skies off the East Coast while helpless air traffic controllers watched as it flew worryingly close to a jumbo jet.

The giant Tupolev 142 "Bear" was one of a group of three Soviet jets on their way to the international air tattoo at Fairford. As they entered British air space last July two RAF Tornado fighters were sent to intercept and escort them into the Gloucestershire airfield.

However, according to an official Civil Aviation Authority report published yesterday, the TU 142's height varied wildly by up to 700ft. It eventually came within 500ft vertically and four miles horizontally of a Dutch Boeing 747 filled with passengers and heading for Los Angeles.

The pilot of the jumbo jet was alerted to the situation when his collision avoidance warning sounded as he climbed through 23,500ft.

The official report by the Joint Airmiss Working Group



Two RAF Tornados intercepted the Tupolev

says: "Limited English spoken by the TU 142's crew meant that all turns, climbs and descents were delayed and instructions had to be repeated several times. There was

Trident sub damaged

THE Royal Navy's first Trident ballistic missile submarine was damaged during trials in America last summer. Ministry of Defence officials disclosed yesterday (Michael Evans writes).

Part of HMS Vanguard's sonar array cable, which runs behind the 16,000-ton subma-

rine to detect other vessels, was sucked into its propulsor system.

Rear Admiral Richard Irwin, chief of the MoD's strategic systems executive, told the Commons Defence Select Committee it was impossible to guarantee the accident could not happen again.

The military air traffic controller at West Drayton "sounded concerned" as he rang the North Sea controller to ask what the Boeing 747 was doing. As the weather deteriorated the harassed con-

troller suddenly found the problem made more complex by "the unexpected appearance of a Hawk aircraft on a photographic task".

Speaking first to the Tornado, then on a different wavelength to the Russian pilot, the controller tried to talk the Bear down towards Fairford through the busy airways linking northern Europe with the main transatlantic airway. But as they crossed the airway known as B5, their paths coincided with that of the Dutch jumbo.

Members of the working group wanted to know why the Tornado could not have done more to guide the Russian bomber away from danger. "The answer was that down towards Fairford but would not necessarily be understood," the report says.

The number of airmisses is increasing. In the four months to August last year there were 22 reported air misses involving commercial aircraft in British air space, an increase of five on the same period of 1993. Seven were categorised as risk-bearing compared with four between May and August the previous year.



Lee Ryan and his partner Karen Taylor yesterday with their children Nile, 6, left, Nadeyne, 11, and Dennis, 14

£6.5m lottery winner on theft charge

THE organisers of the National Lottery learnt yesterday just how much of a lottery life can be when the biggest jackpot winners to reveal their identities turned out to be a suspected car thief and his partner (Joe Joseph writes).

Lee Ryan, a jobless father of three who won £6.5 million on March 11 with Karen Taylor, is to stand trial in Leicester in July for alleged theft and

handling of cars. Mr Ryan, who has bought a £45,000 Jaguar, ordered a Ferrari, and moved into a new £180,000 mock-Tudor home in Leicester since his windfall, says he is innocent and will plead not guilty.

After *The Sun* had disclosed the charges against Mr Ryan, a lottery spokesman told a news conference: "Every person is innocent until proven

guilty. Everybody in this country over the age of 16 is entitled to play the lottery ... all sorts of people will be winners."

Mr Ryan's barrister blocked all questions about the impending trial so journalists turned to how Mr Ryan, 32, would fill his days of leisure. As he had no job to give up, he said he would continue to write his "poetry and stuff" and might now get a book published.

Consultant censured over NHS bed hunt

By A STAFF REPORTER

A HOSPITAL consultant was censured yesterday for not doing more to find a bed for a dying man who was flown 200 miles for treatment.

An investigation has found that beds were available at two hospitals in London, where the patient had been the victim of a hit-and-run accident. Malcolm Murray, 46, went for ten hours without treatment during the search for an intensive-care bed. At least 14 hospitals are thought to have been contacted. He was flown by helicopter from south London to Leeds.

Mr Murray died the next day from brain injuries. The inquiry says that finding a bed earlier would probably not have made any difference to the clinical outcome.

South Thames Regional Health Authority says that Anthony Percy, head of accident and emergency at Queen Mary's Hospital in Sidcup, south London, where Mr Murray was originally taken, could have made a "significant difference" in the search for a bed. He was phoned at home at 2.17am and told the junior doctor on duty to try hospitals outside London.

Two beds were available at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, north London, and two became available at Brook General Hospital in Greenwich early next day. Several neurosurgery centres said they would have admitted Mr Murray.

Mr Percy said: "I am appalled at the criticism being levelled at Queen Mary's and myself. The trauma team spent almost the whole night trying to find a suitable bed and were simply unable to do so. I do not intend to take the position of a scapegoat."

Yesterday William Wells, chairman of the health authority and of the inquiry, said that Mr Percy's role was a "contributing factor". The report calls for better referral systems and communications.

Ramblers denounce £8m scheme

A Government scheme to pay landowners £8 million over ten years to allow the public access to the countryside was denounced as "a scandalous rip-off" by the Ramblers' Association. The association said that almost half the 800 sites said to offer new access already had public footpaths running through them.

Stabbing charge

A girl, 17, accused of attempting to murder a store detective who was stabbed after chasing a suspected shoplifter, was remanded on bail by Cardiff magistrates.

24 injured

Twenty-four people were taken to three hospitals after a bus and a heavy goods lorry crashed in Liverpool. Most suffered minor injuries but three were detained.

Claim scheme

The Government is to introduce a scheme to speed the handling of claims for medical negligence against NHS trusts next month. Hospitals will contribute to a central fund.

Charity change

The 111-year-old Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has changed its name to Children 1st. It will keep the full title for formal purposes.

Sight tests urged

The British Medical Association called for free sight tests for the elderly to halt a rise in the number going blind because of disease.

CORRECTION

Mr Richard Wells was not Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police at the time of the Hillsborough football stadium disaster in 1989 (report March 28).

Dinosaurs found in Gobi graveyard

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A DINOSAURS' graveyard containing the well-preserved fossils of almost 200 creatures has been found in the Gobi Desert.

The animals appear to have been killed and buried by sandstorms. In an area of four square kilometres, American and Mongolian scientists have discovered not only the dinosaurs but also specimens of more than 400 mammals and lizards, and the first known skull of an extinct bird.

The site, at Ukhaa Tolgod (Brown Hills) in the south-western Gobi, contains 187 creatures from several groups of dinosaurs that appear to have died at the same moment, in poses indicating death struggles. The completeness of the skeletons indicates that they were quickly covered by sand, with minimal weathering.

Reporting the discovery in *Nature*, Dr Michael Nova-

cek of the American Museum of Natural History and colleagues say that in the Late Cretaceous period, which ended 65 million years ago, the area may have been a water hole around which animals congregated.

The small area also contains the remains of 41 horned and frilled dinosaurs known as *Protoceratopsians*, and 21 *Ankylosaurs*, creatures which were covered with thick armour-plating to ward off the flesh-eating dinosaurs.



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Rail Regulator abandons core stations proposal

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to cut the number of railway stations required to sell through-tickets to every destination on the network have been abandoned. The proposal created a political storm at Westminster when it emerged in January that passengers might have to travel up to 50 miles to buy a long-distance ticket from one of 294 core stations.

John Swift, the government-appointed Rail Regulator, is expected to announce next week that all 1,300 staffed British Rail stations will continue to offer the full range of tickets after privatisation. "The core station idea is dead," said one rail industry source. "John Swift had no choice but to kill it off. Even he would admit it was a mistake."

The scheme was one of three options put forward in a consultation document by Mr Swift, who is formally independent of the Government, outlining the minimum standards to be met by franchise operators after privatisation. Currently all 1,300 staffed British Rail stations, however

small or remote, can sell tickets for any final destination, regardless of the number of changes of train that a journey involves.

Under the most radical option proposed by Mr Swift, only stations in large towns and cities, main interchanges or stations serving ports or airports would have been legally obliged to sell the full range of tickets.

Rail-user groups, unions and opposition MPs joined forces in accusing the Govern-



Swift said to be left with no alternative

ment of abandoning earlier pledges that through-ticketing would be retained after privatisation.

The proposal also revived fears among Tory backbenchers that rail privatisation would turn into a political "poll-tax on wheels". Within days of the plan becoming known, Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, rejected it as "unacceptable".

The Government insisted that through-ticketing would be retained and that private-sector rail operators would develop new computer systems to make it easier for passengers to buy tickets. Ministers believe that fewer passengers will in future go to stations to buy tickets and that most will be bought over the telephone like air tickets. Roger Salmon, the rail franchise director, has already begun talks with train operators about developing a national ticket-by-phone passenger hotline.

Only a limited number of passengers would have been affected by the proposal as only about 1 per cent of rail

journeys involve using more than one line. However, the political furor caused by the through-ticketing outcry came as a deep embarrassment to Dr Mawhinney.

Michael Meacher, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said the Government had been forced into a U-turn over through-ticketing by the strength of the public reaction against Mr Swift's plans. "It is absolutely clear that there was a firm commitment by the Government to carry it out and the only reason it decided to change its mind was the political storm it created," he said. "If the Government can be forced to go against its will on this then it encourages us to fight for the abandonment of other unacceptable and unwelcome aspects of privatisation."

A spokesman for the Rail Regulator refused to confirm that the core stations plan had been ditched. He said: "Following consultation on the document we are still formulating a policy statement. There will be an announcement probably next week."



Wearing diamond. Dame Barbara shows off a diamond and aquamarine necklace

Cartland cashes in diamonds for fakes

By A STAFF REPORTER

IN A distinctly unromantic move, Dame Barbara Cartland is to sell her collection of gems because real jewellery "is impractical these days". In future she will wear imitation stones, which, she says, show up better on television.

The 93-year-old novelist, whose jewels were on display at Sotheby's in London yesterday before the sale on June 22, said: "I'm on television all day every day, and so it is much better for me to have diamonds."

"Jewellery has always been part of my life," Dame Barbara said. "I think no woman should be without it. However, nowadays there simply aren't the grand parties and besides, it's almost too dangerous to wear jewellery today. I've already had one major robbery, where a lot of very precious, sentimental pieces were stolen, so now I have decided to sell the rest."

Among the items for sale is an aquamarine and diamond set designed by Dame Barbara and valued at £30,000.

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Use of slimming pills to be curbed

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

SLIMMING pills containing addictive drugs face an almost certain ban under a government clampdown announced yesterday. Health Ministers decided to curb use of the pills after reports increased of mental and physical side-effects.

The amphetamine-type drugs are widely prescribed by private slimming clinics to women who want to lose weight quickly. Some help to reduce the appetite, others are said to speed up the metabolism so that calories are burnt faster.

Tom Sackville, a Health Minister, said yesterday: "Some doctors who prescribe these drugs for weight loss are acting unethically. There have been reports of people being damaged mentally and physically by these drugs, which can lead to addiction and psychosis. There have also been reports of loss of hair, palpitations and other side-effects."

Last year Christine Malik, 31, died five days after she was given diuretics, appetite suppressants and hormone drugs

at a private clinic in London. An inquest was told that she died from multi-system failure, which a medical expert said on the "balance of probabilities" was brought on by the drugs.

Two years ago the General Medical Council warned doctors who prescribed large quantities of appetite suppressants that they would face disciplinary action. But hundreds of private slimming clinics have continued to hand out the pills. Patients are rarely willing to testify against doctors.

The GMC said: "There is no jurisdiction over slimming clinics. Anyone can set one up. Only when a patient complains about an individual doctor are abuses highlighted." Last year, it received 14 complaints. The British Medical Association said the drugs had "no real value" in the treatment of obesity.

The Medicines Control Agency is to consult doctors and pharmacists over the next three months before taking a final decision on the ban.

Surfing the superhighway

How to survive and prosper on the information superhighway

Wrist-mounted televisions, computers and telephones, fridges that will notice when we are out of milk and tell the car to buy some on the way home: this is the digital future. Nicholas Negroponte, director of MIT's Media Laboratory in Boston, will guide Times readers through the technological maze in a fascinating forum on the digital revolution and its impact on our lives to be held in London on Thursday, April 6.

The forum, which marks the publication of Professor Negroponte's latest book, *Being Digital* (Hodder & Stoughton, £12.99), will offer readers an insider's view of what it is like to live in a digital world, with universal communication available to all at the touch of a control. Professor Negroponte's talk will be followed by questions.

Chaired by John Diamond, the Times's computer guru and columnist, the forum will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, at 7.30pm.

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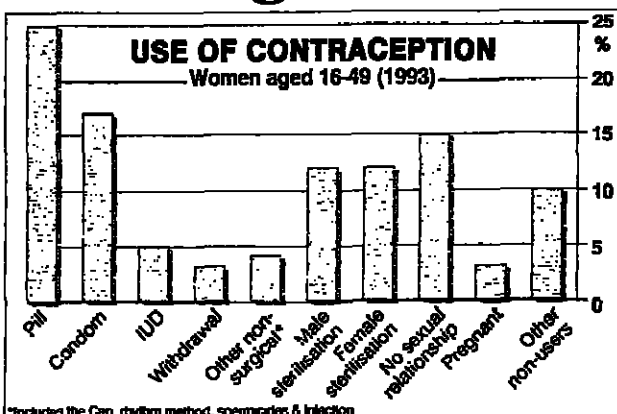
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Young forsake Pill for condom as they heed message on safe sex



BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

TEENAGERS have taken heed of advice about safe sex and have changed their main method of contraception from the Pill to the condom, the latest *General Household Survey* shows.

The male condom, once used almost exclusively by couples aged 35-44, has become the most popular contraceptive among women aged 16-19, with nearly half (45 per cent) asking their partners to use it.

Since 1986, when the Health Education Authority began to warn

about the dangers of Aids, condom use among people aged 18-19 has increased from 6 to 22 per cent, the largest increase in any age group. Between 1991 and 1993 use among 16-17 year olds rose by 7 percentage points to 17 per cent.

The latest of the annual surveys by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, conducted in 1993, found that single women were far more likely than married or cohabiting women to have changed to the condom. It was used most among women employed in non-manual jobs who had been educated to A

level or above. The Pill was still the most popular form of contraception among women "at risk" of pregnancy. Its use increased slightly between 1991 and 1993, from 23 to 25 per cent. Women in their 30s were prescribed it more often than any other age group, and sterilisation of women over 30 or their partners had fallen.

A total of 17 per cent of women used the condom, 12 per cent were sterilised and 12 per cent of women's partners were sterilised. Sterilisation was more common among married women, especially those who had had children. The majority (88 per

cent) who had chosen sterilisation had been operated on as inpatients under the National Health Service.

More than 70 per cent of women aged 16-49 were using at least one method of contraception at the time of the interview; 5 per cent were trying to become pregnant and not using contraception; 15 per cent were not having a sexual relationship; and 3 per cent were pregnant.

The survey also showed that women aged 16-17 were less likely to have a partner than those aged 18-49. Those aged 45-49 were more likely to be sterile as a result of having an

operation not specifically intended to prevent pregnancy, for example a hysterectomy.

Questions about the use of emergency (postcoital) contraception were included in the annual survey for the first time in 1993. Five per cent of women had used emergency contraception between 1991-1993 and 1 per cent had used it on more than one occasion.

Usage was highest in the 18-24 age group, and most were likely to have obtained treatment from their GP. The majority had been given the "morning after" Pill.

Household survey tracks rise of the lone-parent family

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE traditional British family is in decline, both in numbers and in size, according to a survey published today. In the decade to 1993, the number of households with a married or cohabiting couple and dependent children fell from 32 per cent to 24 per cent. From 1971 to 1993, the average size of families fell from 2.91 to 2.44.

The *General Household Survey* suggests, however, that the big increase in families headed by lone parents may be over: the increase between 1991 and 1993 was 1 per cent a year. Even so, from 1973 the proportion of single-parent families almost tripled to 22 per cent.

The percentage of lone mothers with two or more dependent children stabilised at 12 per cent after more than doubling in the 20 years to 1992.

The survey will fuel the political debate about the social and economic consequences of the increase in the proportion of children in homes headed by a single parent. It found that the standard of accommodation occupied by lone-parent families was lower than that lived in by other families. The single parent was more likely to live in rented accommodation, terraced housing or purpose-built flats and less likely to have central heating.

They were also likely to be less well qualified. Thirty-eight per cent of single parents

had no qualifications compared with 25 per cent of other parents; lone mothers were less likely than other mothers to be in paid employment.

When lone mothers did work, a higher proportion were in full-time employment than married and cohabiting mothers. A much higher proportion of lone-parent families than other families had a gross weekly income of £150 or



less and 46 per cent had an income of £100 or less.

Although the average size of families fell to 2.44, Pakistani and Bangladeshi households were about twice as large as white households. Indian families averaged 3.65 persons and black Caribbeans 2.68.

Forty-six per cent of Pakistani and Bangladeshi children were under 16, compared to 29 per cent of the black Caribbeans, 30 per cent of the

Indians and 21 per cent of the white population.

The study of 18,492 people in 9,800 households in the year to March 1994 found that 19 per cent of single, widowed, divorced or separated women were cohabiting. Almost 33 per cent of unmarried men and women in their late twenties or thirties were cohabiting.

Despite these figures, more people were living alone, according to the survey. The proportion rose from 9 per cent to 14 per cent in the 20 years to 1993, when it showed signs of stabilising.

The number of people aged 16-24 living alone increased from 2 to 4 per cent, 25-44 from 2 to 8 per cent, 45-64 from 8 to 11 per cent, and 65-74 from 26 to 28 per cent. The biggest increase, from 40 to 50 per cent, was among the over-75s.

The proportion of adults with no natural teeth fell from 26 to 16 per cent between 1983 and 1993, with more than half those surveyed saying they visited their dentist regularly. Those with their own teeth were more likely to be male and living in the South of England.

There was little change in the number of people wearing glasses or contact lenses from 1977 to 1993. Sixty per cent of men and 69 per cent of women wore glasses or contact lenses.

General Household Survey 1993. (Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, Stationery Office: £18.95)



Not only has the "family"—mother, father and the children—fallen in numbers over 20 years, it has also shrunk

Swimming and keep-fit set the pace

BY OUR HOME CORRESPONDENT

SWIMMING, cycling, keep-fit and yoga have become more popular leisure activities in the past decade as the sporting life grips Britain.

There was a big growth in home leisure activities, such as listening to music, from 1990-1993 and book-reading increased from 62 to 65 per cent. But there was a decline in dressmaking and knitting.

Almost two thirds of adults claimed to have taken part in sport or physical exercise in the month before being interviewed. The proportion taking part in keep-fit and yoga

rose from 8.6 to 12.1 per cent, and swimming, weight-training and golf also increased in popularity. Fewer went running or played badminton, squash, snooker, billiards or darts.

Men were more likely than women to have participated in at least one sporting activity in the four weeks before the interviews. Almost 75 per cent of men claimed to have taken part in at least one sport in that period, compared with 57 per cent of women.

Sport was more popular among people who were in

work and among those in non-manual occupations. The study shows that 82 per cent of professional men and 72 per cent of professional women said that they had taken part in sport in the previous four weeks, compared with 60 per cent of unskilled men and 40 per cent of unskilled women.

Watching television remained Britain's most popular leisure activity, with 99 per cent of people viewing in the four weeks before being questioned. Ninety-six per cent had

entertained friends or relatives. Men were more likely than women to listen to the radio, records and tapes, but women were more likely than men to read a book — 70 per cent against 58 per cent.

Eighty per cent of professional men and 92 per cent of professional women had read a book in the previous four weeks, compared with unskilled men and women at 57 and 57 per cent respectively.

More men than women had worked in the garden or engaged in do-it-yourself.

Graduate total soars in 20 years

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE number of people educated to degree level in Britain has more than doubled in the past 20 years, from 4 to 9 per cent of the population.

The number of people gaining grades A-C at GCSE or O level rose in the 1980s from 13 to 22 per cent. It has remained relatively unchanged since. Since 1975, the number of people with A levels has risen from 4 to 12 per cent.

Young people are more likely than older people to have qualifications: 87 per cent of 20 to 29-year-olds had a qualification in 1993, compared with 40 per cent of the 60-69 age group. Overall, men were better qualified than women, especially among the over-50s, although no difference was evident between those aged under 30.

The proportion of households burgled rose from 3.5 per cent in 1991 to 4.6 per cent in 1993. The average value of goods stolen was £830, Yorkshire and Humberside had the highest rate while Wales had the lowest.

Male employment among over-16s fell from 79 to 62 per cent between 1975 and 1993. Professional men, employers and managers were less likely to be unemployed than manual unskilled workers. Employment among married mothers increased from 52 to 63 per cent between 1977 and 1993 but the proportion of single mothers who worked fell from 48 to 42 per cent.

Twice as many households had a telephone and central heating, compared with 20 years ago.



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Villagers see more shops and churches close

BY IAN MURRAY COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

MORE and more village shops, post offices and churches are closing, according to a survey published today. The findings, by the Rural Development Commission, will put pressure on the Government to stem the losses when it issues a Rural White Paper later this year.

Of the 8,000 parishes surveyed, 41 per cent have no permanent shop, 43 per cent no post office and 52 per cent no school. More than 90 per cent have no bank, 83 per cent no resident GP, 71 per cent no daily bus service and only 8 per cent have any day-care facilities for the elderly.

Since the last survey, in 1991, 150 shops have closed, mostly in villages with a population of less than 1,000. A similar number of post offices has gone. No village with a population of less than 200 has a newspaper, although 86 per cent can have newspapers delivered.

Only 3 per cent of villages have a street market and 26 per cent have a permanent food shop. However, the fall in the number of shops is offset by a slight increase to 56 per cent in the proportion of villages visited by a mobile shop. The best service is provided by the milkman, who calls at 96 per cent of parishes.

The biggest decrease is in the proportion of parishes served by a resident vicar, down by more than 300 to 41 per cent. In Cornwall the figure is 7 per cent.

Almost no village with a population of less than 500 has a resident GP and visiting surgeries are available in only 15 per cent of parishes. Nine per cent of parishes have a dentist, 5 per cent an optician and 2 per cent a hospital.

The number of keep-fit classes has increased by 5 per cent and bowls clubs by 3 per cent.

Bishop calls for critical study of the Koran's origin and sources

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S first Asian diocesan bishop has called for the Koran to be subjected to critical study in the same way as Christian and Jewish scriptures.

The Right Rev Michael Nazir-Ali, Bishop of Rochester, says that Islam in the modern world must be more responsive to change. "An intellectual culture needs to be encouraged that will be critical in its approach to the sources of the faith," he said.

Bishop Nazir-Ali, whose family is Muslim but whose father converted to Christianity, and who holds British and Pakistani citizenship, says in a book published today that a critical approach to the Koran

would lead to an historical awareness of Islam. This should lead to an interest in the literary background to the Koran and its forms and sources, he says.

Muslims believe that the Koran, which dates from the 7th century, supersedes the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament and is the last and literal word of God to humans. It was revealed to the prophet Muhammad, an illiterate who memorised it and had it written down by scribes.

Within Islam, the Koran has rarely been subjected to the kind of study applied to the Bible, such as the "form" and "source" criticism that challenged the traditional

view that the first five books of the Bible were dictated to Moses by God on Mount Sinai.

In *Mission and Dialogue*, Bishop Nazir-Ali says, it should be possible "to engage in a literary-historical study of the text of the Koran without compromising the divine revelation which it is seen to mediate".

Bishop Nazir-Ali, 45, who was the Anglican Communion's youngest bishop when elevated to Raiwind in 1984, said yesterday: "I hope there is no controversy over this, but people should not be afraid to say things just because there might be."

"Muslims who have tried to do this have got into trouble often. One scholar who tried it in Pakistan about 25 years ago lost his job as a result, although he became more conservative as a result of his critical work."

He said the problem with Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses*, which was regarded by Muslims as blasphemous and led to a death sentence being pronounced on him by Ayatollah Khomeini, was not that it used the critical method in a work of fiction, but that it was polemical.

Bishop Nazir-Ali said: "I am not saying anything in a polemical way, but in a way to encourage dialogue."

A spokesman for the Muslim Institute said: "Individuals or groups looking at the subject critically are not a problem. Where we have a problem, and what created the problem with Salman Rushdie, is where insult is addressed against Islam and the prophet Muhammad. Anyone who is not a Muslim will not believe in the prophet Muhammad being the prophet of God."

Iqbal Sacranie, of the UK Action Committee on Islamic Affairs, said the book would need further study.

Mission and Dialogue (SPCK: £8.99)



Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali: encouraging dialogue

Leading article, page 15

AC SEX

operation was specifically inserted into the bill to prevent pregnancy, for example, by vasectomy.

Questions about the use of emergency contraception were also introduced in the annual survey of the House in 1993. Five per cent of respondents in 1991-1993 and 16 per cent in 1994-1995 said that they had used it on more than one occasion.

Usage was highest in the 15-19 age group, and most were likely to be seeking treatment from their GP. The majority had been given a "morning after" pill.

Graduate total soars in 20 years

By MARIANNE CURRY

THE number of people educated to degree level in Britain has more than doubled in the past 20 years, from 4 to 9 per cent of the population.

The number of people joining grades A-C at GCSE or O level rose in the 1980s from 1 to 22 per cent. It has remained relatively unchanged since 1975. The number of people with A levels has risen from 4 to 12 per cent.

Young people are more likely than older people to be qualified to drive 47 per cent of 20-year-olds had a qualification in 1993, compared with 30 per cent of the 60-69 age group. Overall, men were better qualified than women, especially among the over-40s, although in different ways evident between those

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YOU CAN WITH A NISSAN

Clarke pressed to wound Labour with £10bn tax cuts

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR Tory backbenchers are urging Kenneth Clarke to implement a £10 billion package of tax cuts phased in over the next three years.

At a meeting on Tuesday the Tory backbench finance committee will press the Chancellor to use the next Budget to pledge a 5p cut in the basic rate of tax.

The MPs favour putting Labour on the spot by means of a phased programme, which would run into the next Parliament. They argue that Tony Blair, the Labour leader, would then go into the next general election faced with the dilemma of whether or not he would repeal the tax cuts. The plan would also enable the Tories to reassert themselves as the tax-cutting party.

The idea, which is backed by several ministers, would be to announce a staged reduction in tax starting in April 1996. The most favoured option is a programme to reduce

the basic rate to 20p in the pound by 1998. Mr Clarke could announce a 1p cut from next April then further cuts of 2p each in the following two years, reducing the tax burden by nearly £10 billion.

MPs on the predominantly right-wing committee argue that the Chancellor will have at least £5 billion extra through economic growth and could find another £5 billion through public spending cuts.

Two other options are expected to be put to Mr Clarke on Tuesday: a one off reduction of the basic tax rate to 23p from next April with an extension of the 20p band; or a significant increase in personal allowances to take large numbers out of tax altogether.

Senior members of the backbench finance committee argue that Mr Clarke should do whatever possible to court middle England voters, the group that Labour is also working hard to attract. MPs

feel that Labour is winning the argument over excessive pay awards to top directors and that any tax package should favour less well-off groups.

"Labour is hitting home with its campaign on share options and other tax perks for the wealthy," said one committee member.

The MPs will also press Mr Clarke to take a much tougher approach to public spending, as part of a "war on waste". They will argue for a real terms cut in local government spending, with town halls given 2.5 to 3 per cent extra rather than the 3.5 per cent estimated for inflation.

John Townsend, chairman of the Tory finance committee, called last week for a "crusade against waste, overmanning and extravagance in the public sector". Mr Townsend said that the public sector should emulate the private sector during the recession, when it became leaner and fitter.

Women charmed by Blair's new party

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

LABOUR set out yesterday to woo a new kind of woman voter with the aid of Tony Blair's smile, expensive mineral water and little black suits.

More than 300 people turned up to a conference entitled "What Labour will do for Women" to listen to luminaries including the Labour leader, Clare Short MP, the comedienne Jo Brand, Helena Kennedy QC and Glenys Kinnock MEP extolling the virtues of the new party for middle-class values.

Once Labour women would have come on buses with aubergine hair, having left the lentils stewing in the oven and changed their babies nappies in the aisle. These women had left their babies at home with the au pair, were slipping back to the office at lunchtime and were going past M & S to pick up some potpourri on their way home.

The event was organised by *She*, the magazine for thirtysomething women who



Politics aside: Labour MP Clare Short and former Tory minister David Mellor speaking up for women yesterday

are trying to balance a career and children with finding the perfect white shirt.

Mr Blair fell over himself to charm rows of lip-glossed chattering-class women. They clapped as he told them that a stable and well-balanced family with two parents was preferable to single mothers

and that children needed to be taught basic moral values, social discipline and a sense of responsibility.

Where old-style Labour women would have been discussing whether the family was necessary at all, the biggest cheers from this audience went to the agony aunt

Claire Rayner, who talked of families being like seeds that needed plenty of watering and Labour attention so they could put down roots.

The only two Tory MPs brave enough to face the rows of new blue Labour suits were Lady Olga Maitland and David Mellor. Lady Olga, wearing a cream bouclé suit, should have gone down perfectly but she was almost hissed off the stage.

Although these new Labour women believe in family values and laws against noisy neighbours, they are very different from their Tory counterparts. They would not be seen dead at fundraising bridge parties or pounding the streets in sensible shoes to sell pots of jam. Most had given up on the Tories. What they wanted from Labour was better nursery care and education and equal pay and they

were all prepared to suffer higher taxes to get it.

Mr Mellor, looking distinctly uncomfortable fielding questions on the family, did not bother to defend men. He had done his homework and could reel off statistics about hard-done women. But most of the women were already hooked on Mr Blair. Rachel Robertson, a former Tory voter, said: "I wouldn't have voted for John Smith but Mr Blair is young, attractive and knows how to brush his hair. He epitomises true middle-class values in a way the Tories have forgotten."

Only Margaret Pictet, a stylist in advertising photography, was unimpressed. "I wish he hadn't been so patronising and just talked about the family. Most women now can assimilate economic statistics as easily as they can wash nappies."

Men hang on to Whitehall power

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN remain virtually invisible in the higher ranks of the Civil Service, despite the celebration yesterday of ten years of the Government's equal opportunities programme.

Over the past year the number of women in the top six grades increased by only one, to 1,147. Sir Robin Butler, Cabinet secretary and head of the home Civil Service, said the figures had to be seen against a decline in the total number of senior officers. Over the same period, the number of men in those grades had fallen by 300.

The figures were released yesterday as Britain's most senior women civil servants gathered in the Cabinet Office to mark the anniversary of the Government's programme. David Hunt, the Civil Service minister, admitted: "There are no grounds for complacency. There is still a long way to go." He claimed, however, that the Civil Service was making progress and that it had a better equal opportunities record than the private sector.

Sir Robin said that having less than 10 per cent of posts in the top three grades held by women was not good enough, although the figure did represent progress. Ten years ago the figure was below 5 per cent. John Major wants the

figure to reach 15 per cent by 2000. Throughout the Civil Service women represent just over half of all employees. At the first management level of executive officer, women fill 47 per cent of posts, compared with 29 per cent in 1984.

But there are few women at the top. There are just two civil servants at permanent secretary level: Valerie Strachan, chairman of the board of Customs and Excise, and Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions. There is no woman running a major Whitehall department. In the Diplomatic Service there are only three women ambassadors.

Over the past year the number of women serving as deputy secretaries decreased from ten to nine. At under-secretary level there was an increase from 46 to 48.

Women deputy secretaries with hopes of promotion to permanent secretary include Genie Turton, 49, head of the Citizen's Charter Unit, Dinah Nichols, 51, in charge of housing construction at the Department of Environment, and Jenny Bacon, 49, deputy policy director at the Health and Safety Executive.

The First Division Association of senior civil servants said that the advancement of women in the service was still "painfully slow".

Shephard refuses to finance teachers' rise

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GILLIAN SHEPHARD defied Tory calls yesterday to help education authorities to pay for teachers' rises. She insisted that councils could provide the money by cutting bureaucracy.

The Education Secretary said the Government accepted that the 2.7 per cent pay increase recommended in January should be implemented in full but it would not offer extra money. She took a hard line in the face of criticism from several Tory MPs who claim that the rise for 470,000 teachers can be paid for only

by closing schools or shedding staff.

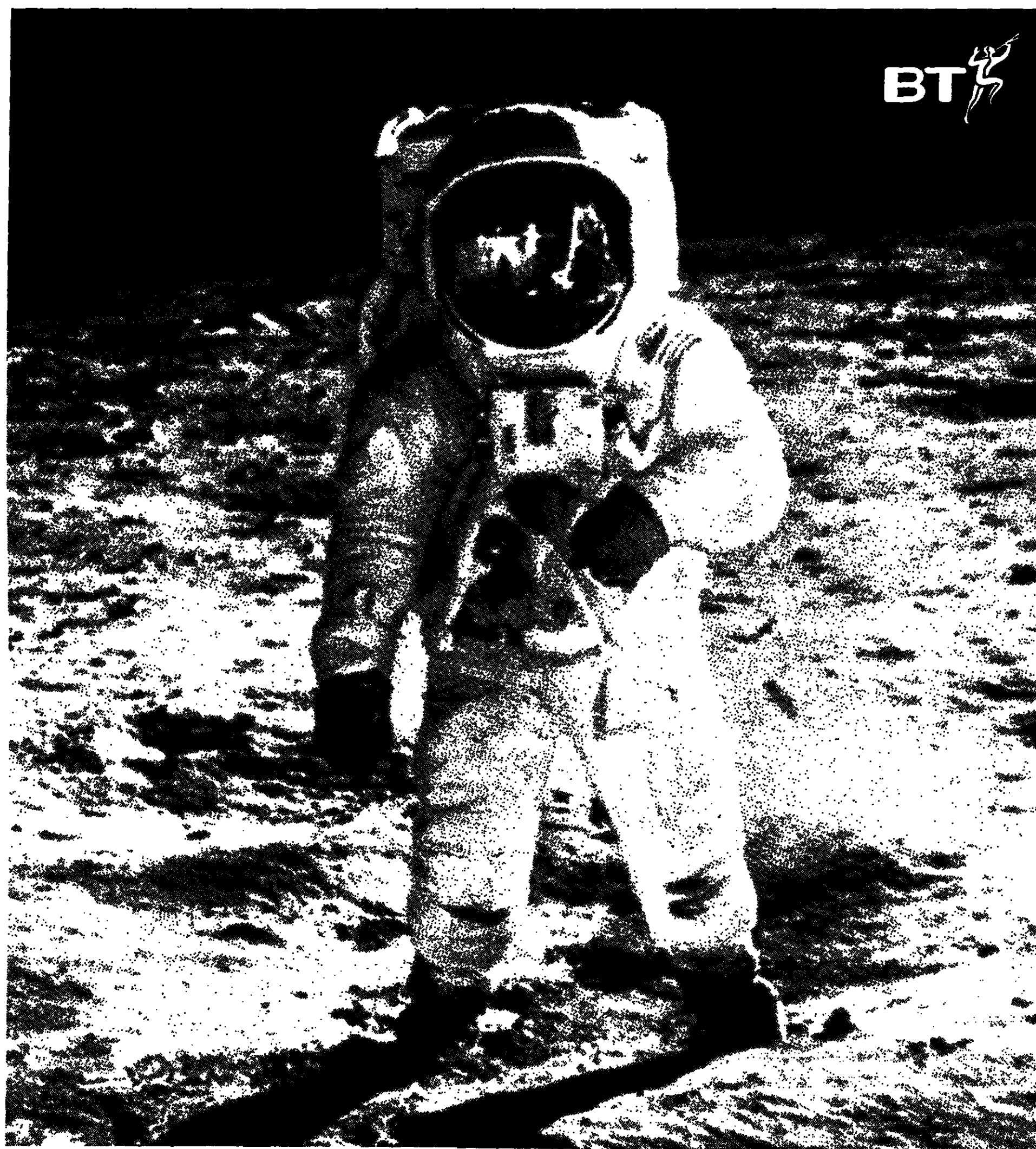
Former Tory education ministers, including Robert Jackson (Wantage) and Alan Howarth (Stratford-on-Avon), have voiced fears over the difficulties facing education authorities over the pay deal, which will cost £270 million.

Mrs Shephard was spared backbench criticism during debate on a Labour motion calling on the Government to provide extra resources to help authorities to meet the pay award. David Blunkett, Shadow Education Secretary, challenged Tories to force ministers to spend money on services rather than tax cuts.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: morning debates on domestic violence, the future of Guy's Hospital, the West Coast main line and climate change. At 2.30pm questions. Foreign Office ministers were followed by a Labour debate on "the impact of education cuts on standards and opportunity". In the Lords: debates on the Health Authorities Bill and the EU decision to open up the Irish Box to

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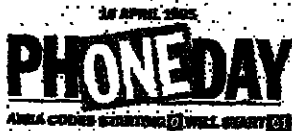
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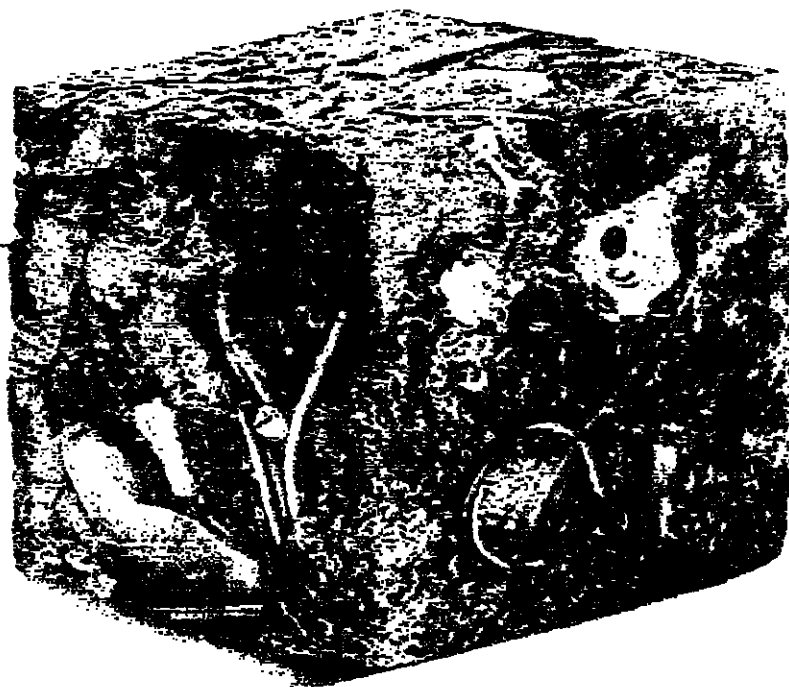
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سكنا ستالون



The new Civic 5 door looks like a million dollars, but costs between **BUILT WITHOUT COMPROMISE** just £12,080 and £14,880. These prices are 'on the road' and include a year's road tax. Buy one today!

You can get in touch with your nearest Honda dealer on 0345 159 159, where you're more than welcome to take a test drive around the block.

If you think this sounds like the end of an ad, you're right.

To show how well put together the new Honda Civic 5 door is, we thought we'd start with the end product and work backwards through its manufacture.

Unconventional, we know.

But as you'll see, that's how we go about building cars. So, where were we?

TESTING TIMES.

Prior to the transporter bringing it to a dealer near you, the new Civic was put through its paces on Honda's very own test track.

Most manufacturers are content to use a 'rolling road' (rollers in the floor that a car's wheels spin on while it stays put).

But at Honda, the new Civic was driven out into the open air, taken down a mile of tarmac at 80 mph and then ridden across 6 types of treacherous road condition.

A SUSPENSION OF DISBELIEF.

Before that, the car had just emerged from Honda's Swindon factory - one of the most advanced in the world.

Final checks were made here on its double-wishbone suspension system - a unique feature in this class of car.

The majority of cars on the road these days are built with the McPherson Strut, a very sound and economical suspension system which is easy to manufacture and fit.

Double-wishbone is a bit of a tough cookie for designers and engineers, but it is without doubt the better system.

Slightly more expensive cars such as Mercedes, Jaguars, Lamborghinis and Ferraris all have it.

Throughout all steering conditions, double-wishbone keeps the wheels as close to upright as possible inhibiting the migration of

the roll centre' according to the boffins. In plain English, it simply holds the road better.

A TALE OF TWO ENGINES.

Going back a bit further down the line, we see the new Civic receiving its VTEC engine.

This stands for Variable valve Timing and lift Electronic Control.

The VTEC-E version - the extra 'E' stands for economy - is something really special.

It has a place in The Guinness Book of Records and is even more economical than a diesel engine.

Our rivals can read these Government figures and weep: on the urban cycle, 40.2 mpg. At 56 mph, 58.6 mpg. And at 75 mph, 43.9 mpg.

Even on the touring average, the new Civic can travel 45.7 miles on just one gallon.

The way it's able to do this without hurting performance is fiendishly clever.

At low revs the engine uses only 12 valves. But open it up and you're using all 16, as if you had a completely different beast under the bonnet.

Both economy and performance are yours.

VTEC-E is also able to use an incredibly lean air-to-petrol ratio of 22:1. So its emissions are cleaner. These engines, incidentally, are manufactured on site at Swindon. It makes for better quality control.

THE INSIDE STORY.

Before the engine, the innards. Such as double airbags, built to the reliability level NASA demands of its space shuttle equipment. And standard kit aboard every new 5 door, to boot. No other car in this class can make such a claim.

Then came the doors, already meeting the side-impact standards required by the United States in 1997. The new Civic even has a C-frame roll-bar around its hatch. A new form of moulded

construction (Honda have applied for a patent) which gives the car greater rigidity.

SMART AS PAINT.

So much for the hardware. Back we go to the paintwork. Paint baths at Honda are different kettles of fish to those of other car manufacturers.

They're built so that car bodies are immersed and rolled through 180° to completely dispel air pockets.

The tanks themselves are out-of-the-ordinary too. They're small. They fit around the car snugly, so that the electrolytic charge which bonds paint to metal is as even as can be. And the more even the charge, the better the bond.

THE BUILDING BLOCKS.

Prior to the painting, there's the putting together. Honda actually build the robots that do the building at Swindon. And one of them in particular, is something that other motor manufacturers would give their eye-teeth for.

It's called a General Welder. (One boss of a rival company even wanted his picture taken next to it, the sad man.)

The General is a mammoth robot, looking like something out of a sci-fi movie.

It makes no less than 300 welds on the new Civic's body in less than 10 seconds.

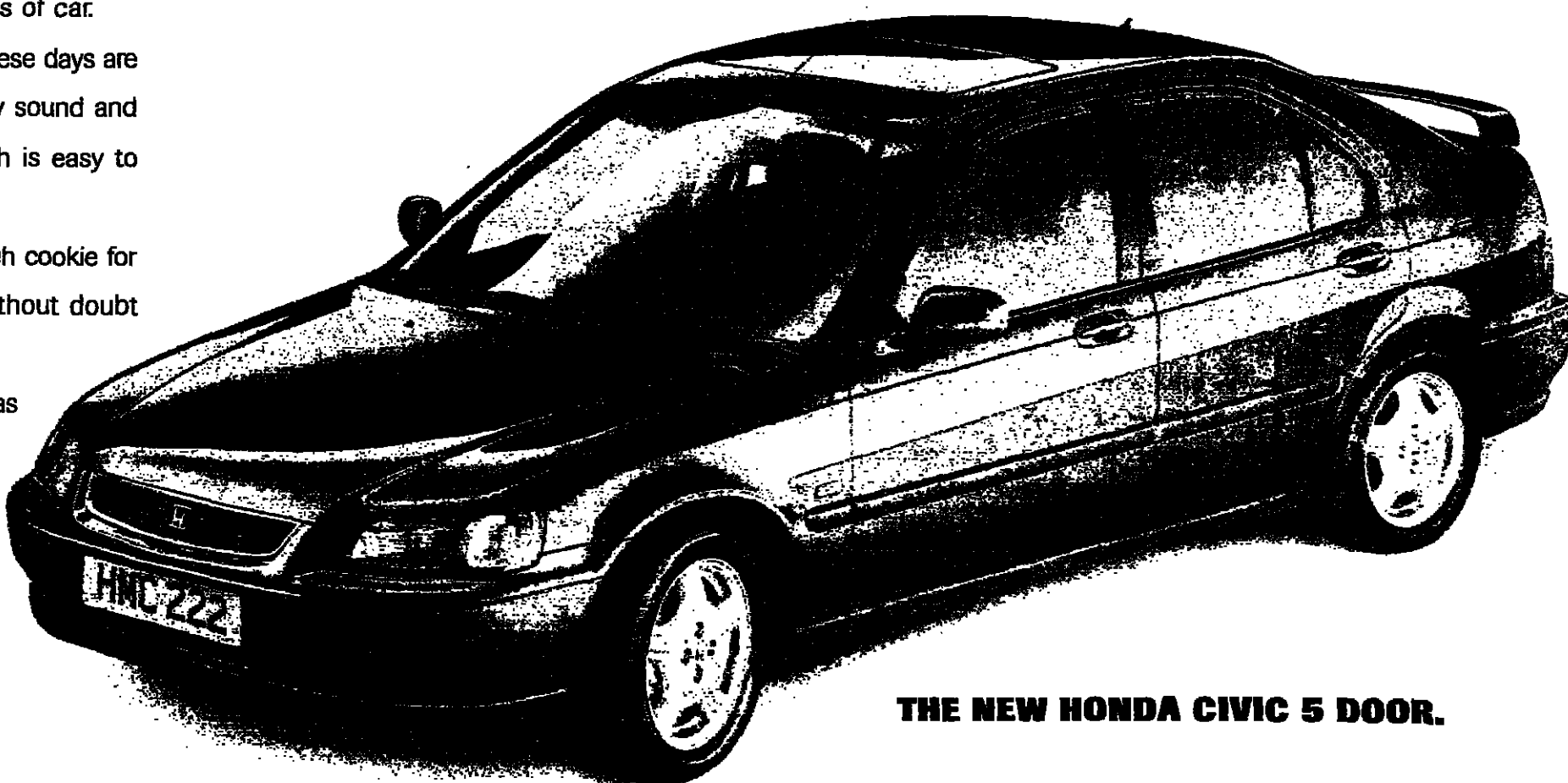
Each weld is as solid as a rock and perfectly, but perfectly aligned.

Honda engineers call this 'Repeatability of Reliability' and it's something they're very, very proud of.

What next? Well, that's it. We're back at the very beginning. Back to the metal, the wood, the plastic and the rubber. Back to the basics that all cars are made of.

Such a pity they don't all end up (this is where we came in) like the new Honda Civic 5 door.

THE STORY OF THE NEW HONDA CIVIC. (FROM END TO BEGINNING.)



THE NEW HONDA CIVIC 5 DOOR.

Major urges farewell to the Little Englander mentality in pursuit of modern global role

Leaders call on nation to end era of retreat

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR
PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND JAMES LANDALE

TRUMPETING Britain's disproportionate influence on world diplomacy, culture, global peacekeeping, Third World development and political thought, Henry Kissinger, John Major and the Prince of Wales yesterday joined a galaxy of politicians, diplomats, writers and thinkers in urging Britain to come out of its shell, thrust out its chin and make the most of its assets.

At a conference of more than 700 opinion-formers in Westminster, Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, who conceived the event as a way of starting a national debate, proclaimed that Britain's decline had halted in the 1980s. He decried the "tired clichés" of further retreat, and called for a rediscovery of self-knowledge and self-confidence.

Four themes dominated the day: the need for Britain to maintain a core diplomatic service if it was to hold on to its Security Council seat and continue its world influence; the efficiency of Britain's reorganised armed forces which were among the best qualified in the world for peacekeeping work; the extraordinary influence of the BBC and Britain's cultural

John Major, addressing a conference in Westminster yesterday on Britain's role in the world, called on the nation to look beyond the European Union

outreach, which could be exploited for greater commercial gain; and the importance of targeting foreign aid and tying it to good government by the recipient countries.

In a wide-ranging speech opening the conference John Major declared Britain's continuing support for President Yeltsin's reform efforts in Russia, despite what he called the "huge error" of Chechnya. He said that although the Russians had faced an unenviable problem in the break-away republic, the response of their military commanders was wrong and brutal.

Mr Major used his speech, on which he had worked for months, to urge Britain to lift its sights beyond the European Union to the wider world. He eschewed the "Little Englander" mentality and said that the domestic debate in Britain had focused far too narrowly on the internal

workings of the EU. In remarks that will please the Euro-sceptics, he said that Britain was a nation state in what would continue to be a world of nation states for the foreseeable future. "We are attached to our independence, our sovereignty and our national peculiarities."

He cited Britain's early support for the reforms of Mikhail Gorbachev in the former Soviet Union and continuing support for Mr Yeltsin as an example of the way Britain, though a conservative country, was prepared to take intelligent risks, act quickly and independently.

He said: "We did not hesitate to support the reformers when they came under attack, under both Gorbachev and Yeltsin. And we are not going to change direction now. It may take a generation before Russia has a full range of democratic institutions; more before its people enjoy the standard of living we take for granted in the West. But we shall take the long view."

The Prince of Wales, in a lunchtime speech, insisted that Britain should not be shy about its strengths: high standards of public service, military prowess, independence of thought, voluntary effort, artistic and scientific endeavour and "great good humour". But Britain could only set an example of excellence if it believed in itself.

The Prince of Wales said that a mood of introspection had become a loss of morale, not only through what he called "the difficult times" over the past few years but also because of a widespread cynicism about many aspects of British national life. "But in

the face of an approach to life which appears only to denigrate, to decay and to destroy, surely it is about time we took pride in the fact that we have so many valuable assets," he said.

"If we denigrate the things in which we excel, if we disregard the humanity, the tolerance and fairness, the sense of justice and of right and wrong, and the suspicion of ideology and dogma, which inform so much of what we do well, we are throwing away things of long and tested value to us as a society. We must not lose those civilising qualities which have stood the test of time and which we can contribute to the benefit of others as well as ourselves."

Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, made clear he had lost none of his faith in Britain, but gave a veiled warning that Britain could not remain America's exclusive partner in a special relationship; that must now be extended to all Europe. Dr Kissinger called for a new North Atlantic free trade area to cement

relations with Europe in an age where America, tempted to retreat into isolationism, needed the help and experience of the Europeans to forge policy in an unfamiliar post-Cold War world.

He gave a warning that a Maastricht Europe bent on closer integration would lead to bureaucracy and demagoguery dominating government from Poland to Portugal. Throwing his academic weight behind the Government's more sceptical approach, he said the bureaucratic integration of the European Union would not be feasible with 16 or 20 members. "I believe more in a confederate than a federal Europe, where it is easier for Britain to find its place."

Britain's great mistake had been its failure to join and shape the European Economic Community from the start. "If I could design it, I would prefer a non-Maastricht to a Maastricht Europe," he said. What he would not like now would be Gaullist policies pursued by British methods. "That would be a lethal combination."

He did not agree that America must now shift its special relationship to Germany, as some Americans were now arguing. "It is not helpful to Germany and it is not meaningful for the United States. I do not know of any German leader who aspires to such a position."

Dr Kissinger said afterwards that he believed America, like Britain, should also examine its own foreign policy. But defining its national interests was provocative, as Americans always believed that they stood for general interests, universally applied. He said thinking on foreign policy had never been so fragmented as today. And he sharply criticised the Clinton Administration by saying that its policies were purely reactive to events rather based on strategy or experience. America now needed the help of others, especially Britain, to

manage an unfamiliar situation in the world. Defending Britain's record, Mr Hurd said that the past 25 years had seen a "pretty good roll call of achievement". The transformation of the British Empire was nearly complete. Britain had taken an irreversible decision to join the European Union, inflation and the trade unions had been curbed, and there was now peace in Northern Ireland.

"Anyone told 25 years ago that we would advance so far would have been amazed and disbelieving... That is why we need no longer be distracted by those here still arguing for further retreat."

"Narrower yet and narrower shall her bounds be set," was their cry. Abandon

the seat on the Security Council. Throw in the sponge in the European debate, or confine foreign policy to Europe as if there was no world elsewhere. Sell our embassies and retreat into suburban villas. Run down the armed forces still further. Scrap the Commonwealth.

"We still receive that kind of advice," Mr Hurd said. "But we no longer listen to the tired clichés of the past."

For the effort which Britain now makes in the world is an effort which Britain can and should sustain and increase. We are not pretending to be grander than we are. I have never been interested in the policy of prestige."

Mr Hurd said foreign policy was the servant of the nation's

effort. "We have declared the aims and identified the assets. We now need to rediscover our self-knowledge and self-confidence. We need to build further the wealth and power of Britain to the benefit both of ourselves and of our hopes for a more decent world."

An equally rosy view of Britain's strengths was given by Josef Joffe, the foreign editor of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. He praised Britain for its long history of democracy, and said the country now stood at the beginning of a democratic process triumphant in all of Europe and spreading to more parts of the world. Britain stood for values that were "tested, timely and compelling" — a free market, free trade, organic rather than imposed integration, the primacy of the democratic sovereignty over bureaucratic rule, an Atlantic rather than Continental defence and the widening rather than tightening of Europe.

Herr Joffe, urging Britain to throw off its gloom and self-doubt, said there was no "Continental moonolith" out there. Britain should use diplomacy rather than sulking or bullying to achieve its ends. But to be a key player, Britain should stay in the European game.

"There is no exit. It is a game of persuasion and bargaining, of coalition-building and trade-offs."

The Royal Institute of International Affairs, the organisers, had intended a no-holds-barred session where criticism would be voiced by officials as freely as morale-boosting facts. In the event, criticism was muted and the "feel-good factor" was underlined. The main question participants, and the Foreign Office, now want to know is whether the conference will have any echo, or whether the cacophony of opinions died away when the conference ended in the evening.

Henry Kissinger, page 18
Leading article, page 19



John Major prepares to deliver his address to the London conference, with Henry Kissinger, the former US Secretary of State, at his side



The Prince of Wales after his speech yesterday

Puttnam calls for university role

By JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

CULTURE

BRITAIN should become the "university of the world", leading the way in teaching English to billions of people, Sir David Puttnam said yesterday.

The veteran film-maker said private and public money should come together with the BBC World Service and the British Council to exploit Britain's best creative talents in cornering the international education market.

"We will never be the world's factory again, but we could be the world's university," he said. "One country will corner the market and it will be an English-language country. I want it to be us."

Sir David, who created *Chariots of Fire* and *The Killing Fields*, told a side meeting of yesterday's Brit-

ain in the World conference that the global education industry was expanding rapidly and could soon overtake the entertainment business if it was organised commercially.

With the Open University, hundreds of British Council offices around the globe and the World Service, Britain already had the infrastructure to lead the market. His call was echoed around the conference hall as speakers urged Britain to promote its language and cultural assets to the full.

Colonel John Blashford-Snell, the explorer, who said he had listened to steam radio in some of the steamiest parts of the world, called on the World Service to simplify the way that it teaches English.

Speakers dance around key issue

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The conference yesterday was more than just a grandiose exercise in mutual admiration and networking for the foreign policy, business, political and media establishment, although there was plenty of that.

At one level, it was a skilful exercise in self-justification and defence by Douglas Hurd on behalf of the Foreign Office. The Foreign Office at present is undergoing a fundamental expenditure review by the Treasury in which all its main functions are being examined. Mr Hurd is keen to show how much his department still has to do and how much it is appreciated by the Great and the Good, not only in Britain but also throughout the rest of the world.

There was no hint yesterday of stories about diplomatic extravagance overseas. The conference was in one sense aimed at the absent Kenneth Clarke, although some Treasury officials were present. Anyway, the Foreign Office looks likely to win its battle over the fundamental review.

At a public level, the day provided an opportunity for a redefinition of what Britain's role should be. Nobody disputes the general aims. Mr Hurd and Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, offered virtually identical broad objectives. Mr Hurd talked of making Britain more prosperous, more influential and of

contributing to a safer and more decent international order, while Mr Cook said that he aimed to make Britain more prosperous, safe and respected. Even beyond that level of generality, their differences were more of style and of detail, over the balance of the overseas aid programme.

The trouble in a way was how government speakers, starting with the Prime Minister in his opening address, tended to dance around the central question of Britain's relations with the European Union. Other issues are important and interesting but, as Mr Cook pointed out, "we will not build a sound global strategy if we neglect its European foundation". Some of the non-politicians, such as Peter Bonfield, of ICL, did argue that Britain must "be serious about being at the heart of Europe". The Tories' internal divisions over Europe undermine its attempt to play a stronger role in Europe and the world.

John Major raised some pertinent long-term questions about the future of the United Nations, the transatlantic relationship, relations with Central and Eastern Europe, problems of terrorism and crime, tackling world poverty and the Commonwealth. But, unfortunately, there were few

answers. For instance, he talked about the first stirrings of a debate about a new transatlantic community, to promote closer ties between Europe and America. It is, as he said, "a worthy aspiration, but how should it be developed?" There are few signs in Washington of any desire to turn those proposals into substance, as Mr Major will no doubt find out on his visit there next week.

Many worthy, sensible and occasionally unexpected suggestions were made by participants. The further the discussion moved from conventional diplomatic and strategic questions to education, culture and British values, the

more interesting it became. It was a pity in a way that the discussion was so broad and not focused on the more concrete area of Mr Hurd's earlier speech about promoting Britain's values around the world. That is where the participants could, and did, make a distinctive contribution. The English language is an enormous asset which Britain can and should exploit via institutions such as the BBC World Service and the British Council as well as through the flood of foreign students into Britain and English-language teaching overseas.

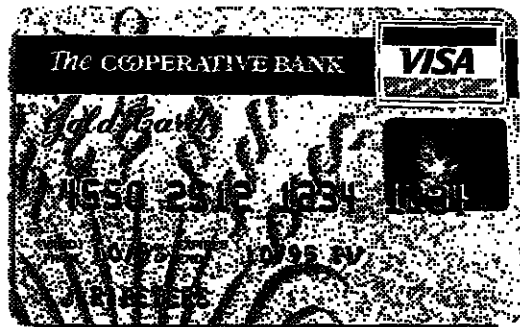
Mr Hurd is right that Britain has major assets and strengths which it can use throughout the world. But the European question cannot be avoided for long.

PETER RIDDELL

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Farmers used by gangs to defraud EU of £800m

By MICHAEL DYNES

THE European Union was defrauded of more than £800 million last year, much of it by organised crime syndicates, the European Commission said yesterday.

The losses, which were more than double the amount in 1993, represent only the "tip of the iceberg" because many went undetected, Anita Gradin, the head of the Commission's anti-fraud unit, said.

Almost half the detected crimes were committed in the EU's agricultural sector, which accounts for about half the Union's annual £62 billion budget. Syndicates were able to choose their targets with impunity, the Commission's annual fraud report said.

"Fraudsters can almost select, à la carte, which EU legislation suits them best," Mrs Gradin said. "We just don't know if even larger amounts ended up in the wrong pockets."

Per Brix Knudsen, the Danish head of the anti-fraud unit, said that improved detection rates partly explained the increased losses. Increased activity by mafia-style syndicates played a role. "There is no doubt that there has been increased interest by organised crime in the potential to commit fraud against the EU budget," he added.

The biggest fraud concerned export subsidies for cereals and beef to bring EU prices down to world levels, pay-

ments for the storage of cereals, and support for olive oil, the report said.

Commission figures showed that Italy topped the fraud league, with more than £740 million (£462 million) lost to fraudsters. Greece came a distant second with £114 million, followed by Spain with £109 million.

The report also showed that the amounts recovered were "unacceptably low". Italy, for example, had only clawed back \$7.9 million out of the \$500 million lost in agricultural fraud.

Recovering funds is mainly the responsibility of national governments, which collect tax income and import levies and also control how EU money is spent locally. "The situation in the area of recovery is not satisfactory," the anti-fraud unit said. "The Commission will, of course, undertake efforts to improve the control, but it is an area where member states have to take their own responsibilities."

Despite attempts to strengthen the Commission's anti-fraud unit, which now has 120 investigators, the recovery of funds remains dismal. Of all the frauds discovered in the first six months of last year, only 4 per cent of the money has been recovered. Moreover, no EU member has managed to recover more than 40 per cent of funds obtained fraudulently. The Commis-

sion does have the power to take action against cross-border fraud. But the main responsibility lies with national governments.

Mrs Gradin called on national administrations to increase the detection of fraud and to adopt EU-wide sanctions to regain public confidence. "The taxpayers of the European Union have to be assured that their money is not spent in a fraudulent way," she said.

She gave a warning that payments to EU countries could be frozen if significant efforts to improve the recovery rate were not made. "That is one way of doing it," she said. France, which holds the EU's six-month rotating presidency, is committed to getting agreement on fines and prison sentences for fraud.

Proposals for a new anti-fraud convention, which would lay down a common definition of fraud and uniform sanctions against fraudsters, are due to be completed before the end of the French presidency in June. There are more than 70 definitions of fraud among the EU states.

Earlier this year, the Commission threatened Greece with one of the biggest financial penalties ever handed down to force Athens to tackle the misuse of cotton subsidies. It faces a £428 million fine unless it prevents Greek farmers from filing false claims for production.



Helmut Kohl, right, applauds as Ernst Jünger is congratulated by a band leader in Saulgau, near his home

Centenarian thinker honoured by Kohl

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

ERNST JÜNGER, Germany's most controversial thinker, whose texts include a glorification of war and an attack on the Jews, from which he later distanced himself, was yesterday given a 100th birthday surprise when Helmut

Kohl, the Chancellor, and President Herzog arrived at his home in a remote south German village. Other prominent well-wishers included President Mitterrand, who penned an open letter declaring: "This is a free man... this philosopher has a lust for life that has not been dulled by time." Over the years, Herr Jünger has become accustomed to

admiration - Hitler once expressed a strong interest in meeting him, but never turned up - and his many works have drifted in and out of fashion. He is regarded as a nationalist and conservative who displays cool detachment from the modern age and totalitarian rule. He has published some 60 novels, travel books, essay collections and diaries.

Right's vision for Europe leaves Tories isolated

FROM GEORGE BROCK
IN BRUSSELS

THE isolation of British Conservatives among their allies in Europe was brutally underlined yesterday by Christian Democrat calls for the EU to unite more closely next year.

Opening speeches at a large gathering of MPs and MEPs from right-of-centre parties across Europe emphasised that the EU's 1996 inter-governmental conference to review the Maastricht treaty should mark an historic move towards deeper union. An early version of the manifesto to be sent to the 1996 negotiations between governments by the Christian Democrat bloc in the European Parliament calls for Europe-wide criminal law, majority voting on all but a few EU decisions, and power for Brussels to raise its own taxes.

Two Conservative MEPs sitting on the committee writing the document seem certain to be outvoted on many of the points they are trying to change. The final version of the paper will be agreed in November. Although MEPs are famous for making extravagant demands for giant leaps towards a federal Europe, the Parliament will be a more powerful player than in the past as the next round of negotiations over the treaty unfolds. Tory MEPs in the European Parliament are al-



Hanley: speech avoided every sensitive issue

lied to the Christian Democrats but are regularly embarrassed by differences over federalism.

The draft document currently opens with the declaration: "The European Union points the way to a united Europe. Our objective is a European federation..." The paper was produced by a group of about 20 MEPs.

Delegates listened politely to a speech by Jeremy Hanley, the Conservative Party chairman, which avoided every sensitive issue on the agenda. He said that if next year's treaty conference was to be a success, "it cannot afford to be too abstract or over-ambitious. Our theme must be of effectiveness and implementing what we have agreed, not some giant leap forward."

War booty row over Russian exhibition

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S Hermitage museum yesterday became the scene of an undignified custody battle as rival claimants fought over a collection of predominantly Impressionist art, looted by Soviet troops in Germany half a century ago.

An exhibition, which opens today at the gallery in St Petersburg, contains 74 paintings, including works by Picasso, Van Gogh, Renoir, Cézanne, Gauguin and Manet, part of a haul of art seized by Red Army brigades in 1945.

The artistic merits of the *Hidden Treasures Revealed* exhibition were eclipsed as the Russian authorities fended off allegations that they were trying to legitimise the war booty.

Danièle Brabner-Smith, the daughter of Friedrich Siemens, the late German industrialist and private art collector, said that two pictures in the Hermitage were among 11 masterpieces stolen from their home in Germany.

German officials insist that Russia is obliged under the Hague conventions and a 1991 agreement to return all stolen property. The current exhibition has only a tenth of the stolen works in the Hermitage. The Pushkin Museum in Moscow has another 400.

Geese destroy Arctic wetlands as climate shift boosts flocks

By NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

GEESSE populations on the edge of the Arctic are booming, causing widespread devastation by turning lush sedge meadows and wetlands into lifeless mudflats, researchers said yesterday.

British and Canadian scientists are linking the boom in climate changes, which in some areas are causing ice to melt earlier than normal, allowing the geese to grub out the roots of grasses and other plants, or breed earlier.

A decline in hunting and changes in agricultural practices in the birds' staging posts and wintering homes of Canada, Europe and the United States are also providing food reserves. Recent milder winters in some countries may also be adding to the surge.

The population boom, which is likely to continue for the foreseeable future, threatens the delicate natural balance in one of the world's harshest regions. There is evidence that the salinity of the Hudson Bay area will rise as the mudflats dry



Snow geese: breeding earlier and devouring more

out, allowing peat to blow away and leaving behind gravel beds.

The damage was detailed by Dr Dawn Bazely, a British scientist based at the University of York in Toronto, who has been studying the geese with Dr Bob Jefferies of the University of Toronto. The findings were disclosed at an Arctic biology conference at the University of Aberdeen.

At lower populations the geese, which include the Brent, lesser snow goose and greater snow goose, fertilise the land with their droppings. But the vast numbers are reversing any benefit.

"If you look at the greater

snow goose, the population has gone from tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands. The lesser snow goose now number more than two million and are increasing at a rate of 8 per cent a year," said Dr Bazely. Some of the land could recover over several hundred years, but parts may be irreparably damaged.

The meeting was told that polar bears living on the edge of the Arctic are losing weight because the ice is melting earlier and freezing later. Polar bears hunt mainly on ice for ringed seals, whose numbers are being reduced by climate changes.

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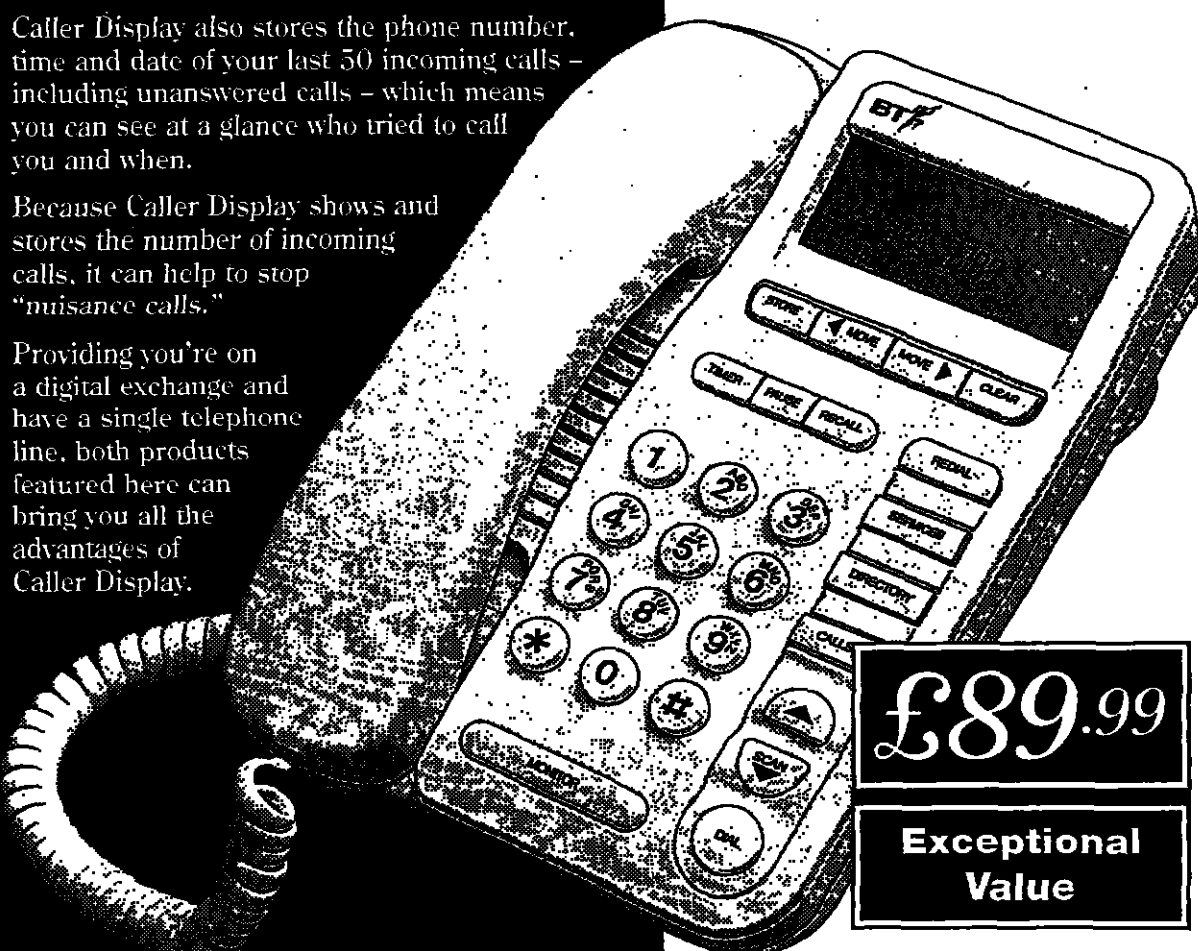
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Chirac named in housing scandal

FROM CHARLES BRENNER
IN PARIS

OPPONENTS pounced on Jacques Chirac, the French presidential front-runner, yesterday after a disclosure that he rented a luxurious Paris flat for a fraction of the market rate from a firm which runs some of the city's council housing.

In the latest sleaze allegation to taint one of the leading candidates, M Chirac, who is Mayor of Paris, was said by the *Canard Enchaîné* weekly to have organised the purchase of the flat by the SGIM company in 1990 for 12 million francs (£1.5 million). He continued to rent the 190 square metre flat, the ground floor of a villa on the Left Bank, for less than a third of its value.

M Chirac denied that he had been involved in the sale of the property, which he has occupied since 1977. However, word of his low rent and the involvement of a company partly owned by the city and the Rothschild family was potentially explosive given M Chirac's drive to depict himself as the candidate with a social conscience and defender of the homeless.

Last week, the media reported on a heavy profit made by M Chirac's wife, Bernadette, in another property deal.

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6

Hurd plays down Spanish talk of crisis in EU

Britain rejects call for sanctions in fish war

By GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

BRITAIN faces a conflict of loyalties at a European Union meeting in Brussels today to consider a Spanish demand for trade sanctions against Canada in the fish dispute off Newfoundland.

Spain gave a warning of a "crisis" in the EU if Britain failed to support sanctions. But a Foreign Office spokesman in London said: "There can be no question of general trade sanctions against Canada and the United Kingdom will vigorously oppose any proposals for such action."

Britain blocked the dispatch of a stiff protest note to Canada by the EU. "We objected to the tone and style of the language used which seemed more likely to inflame relations further at a time when we are trying to negotiate a solution," a British official in Brussels said.

A decision on sanctions is unlikely to be put to a vote at today's meeting, which is at ambassador level. British

officials are anyhow confident that other member states, among them Germany, Sweden, Finland and Denmark, will share Britain's reluctance to take action that would be certain to escalate the dispute with Canada.

Javier Elorza, the Spanish ambassador to the EU, yesterday denounced what he saw as a rift in the united position taken so far. He said it would be "very peculiar" if Britain was not prepared to back action against Canada for a clear breach of international law.

"If the UK does not back Spain we will take notice of that, and we will remember," Señor Elorza said. "Canada is not respecting international law. If the UK confirms its attitude, evidently we will have a crisis in the Union, because the UK will be saying ... We do not back you defending international law outside 200 miles, and that, I think, is very, very peculiar."

The fish dispute was touched off on March 9 when Canadian patrol vessels seized the Spanish trawler *Estai* on the high seas off Newfoundland, outside Canada's 200-mile zone. The Canadians allege that the Spanish vessel was fishing for Greenland halibut with a net mesh size much smaller than the 130mm limit set by the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation.

Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, declined to respond directly to Señor Elorza's remarks, opting instead for the role of honest broker. "Here is an area in the North Atlantic which has been grossly overfished by everybody," he said. "What is needed is an agreement on the number of fish which can be caught and on the share-out. Once there is agreement on that, we need enforcement so that people do not cheat. While talks are going on ... the Spaniards should not fish in waters

which are sensitive and the Canadians should not take action."

Britain believes that Spain is overplaying its hand if it imagines that the rest of the Union is eager to rush into a trade war with Canada, which is due to host the next G7 economic summit in Halifax in June.

Talks continued in Brussels yesterday between EU and Canadian officials on improving fishery controls in the north Atlantic, including better enforcement of net mesh sizes, satellite tracking of vessels, dock-side inspection of all boats, on-board observers and punishment of offenders.

Britain shares Canada's view that Spain should have no objection to observers being stationed on boats to check catches and nets. "If they are not cheating, they should not mind an observer on each ship," one official said.

Letters, page 15



Filipino soldiers inspect preserved marine turtles on a trawler at Palawan island after 62 Chinese fishermen were arrested off the disputed Spratly Islands. Four trawlers were seized, which allegedly had supplies of

Chinese trawlers seized

cyanide and hundreds of sticks of dynamite. President Ramos of the Philippines yesterday urged other nations to denounce their "de-

structive" activities in the South China Sea. The Chinese have been charged with illegal fishing and illegal possession of explosives. Pe-

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WORLD SUMMARY

Minister quits over tax revolt

Athens: Stelios Papathemelis, the Greek Public Order Minister, resigned yesterday apparently over an ongoing farmers' revolt. Sources said Mr Papathemelis disagreed with government plans to use riot police to clear national highways blocked for the past ten days by thousands of farmers who are protesting against proposed tax increases.

The farmers have set up ten major blockades and driven hundreds of tractors on to main highways and rail links and cut off Athens from the northern port of Salonika. The farmers' action has sent vegetable prices soaring and disrupted petrol supplies. (Reuters)

Africa fights to halt cattle killer

Rome: The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation has begun an emergency programme to fight bovine pleuro-pneumonia, a contagious disease that has killed 15,000 cattle in Tanzania and is threatening to spread to Zambia, Malawi and the rest of southern Africa. The organisation said that the disease, which destroys the lungs, was endangering 3 million cattle. Its programme includes vaccinations and restrictions on cattle movements. (Reuters)

Deal struck on airport

Hong Kong: Britain and China have reached agreement, after more than a year of wrangling, on the Hong Kong Airport Corporation Bill that could guarantee funding for the \$20.3 billion (£12.7 billion) project. The Bill is expected to go before the colony's Legislative Council in early May.

The airport Bill is one of several pieces of legislation that need to be put in place before borrowing for the airport and its rail links can get under way. (Reuters)

UN repatriates last Mozambican

Johannesburg: The UN, concluding the largest operation of its kind in Africa, will repatriate the last Mozambican refugees from South Africa tomorrow. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees said 1.7 million Mozambicans had been repatriated from six African nations. (Reuters)

Simpson chauffeur evidence dents alibi

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

A SHADOWY figure, dark-skinned and dressed in black, crossed O.J. Simpson's garden and let himself into the former footballer's mansion late on the night Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman died, a witness says.

In testimony that may yet haunt Mr Simpson, Allan Park, a limousine chauffeur, also insisted that no white Ford Bronco was parked outside the mansion when he arrived that night to take the athlete to the airport — a flat contradiction of last month's claim by the defence's only possible alibi witness that the Bronco was parked there at the time of the murders.

The stolid, neatly dressed Mr Park broke the spell of unreality that has hung over the trial for three weeks when he went into the witness box on Tuesday. That spell was cast when Rosa Lopez, the frequently hysterical alibi witness, was allowed to give evidence about the Bronco out of turn lest she abscond to her native El Salvador.

But most theatrical of all has been the evidence of Brian "Kato" Kaelin, an aspiring actor and former long-term house guest of Mr Simpson's. Mr Kaelin began his court appearance as a key prosecution witness who could describe the suspect's mood on the evening of the murders and who heard three loud thuds outside his guest house at about the time prosecutors claim Mr Simpson was returning from the murders.

But the long-haired witness's nervous jokes and endless fidgeting — not to mention a half-nude portrait of him in this week's *New Yorker* magazine — made him the talk of America's die-hard O.J.-watchers. Pursued by young girls for autographs and television producers for guest-spots on talk shows, Mr Kaelin eclipsed the slow-burning drama of the trial.

In court, Marcia Clark, the district attorney, accused him of changing and hedging his evidence to avoid incriminating Mr Simpson, and of exploiting the defendant's fame for his own acting career.

Mr Park's evidence brings the prosecution back to a plank of its case that Mr Simpson's whereabouts are unaccounted for between 9.40 and 10.55pm on the night of the murders, which are alleged to have occurred about 10.15pm.



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New Bombay chief issues threat to wipe out Muslims

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIAN Muslims were stunned yesterday by the latest outpourings of Bombay's new extremist Hindu political leaders, who came to power two weeks ago with a fanatical agenda that includes mass expulsions of illegal settlers.

But Thackeray, a Hindu zealot and de facto leader of Maharashtra state, of which Bombay is the capital, said Muslims would be "wiped out" if any of them dared even to touch his hair. The warning followed an alleged death threat by telephone.

The outburst brought nationwide expressions of disgust at the growing hate campaign being waged against the one million Muslims in Bombay, which has serious implications for India's delicate religious balance.

Police have started rounding up accused Muslim settlers from Bangladesh and Pakistan, many of whom insist they are Indian citizens.

Since poor people often have no paperwork to prove their origins, they are an easy target. In the hot-house religious atmosphere created in the past fortnight by Mr Thackeray, police know they have virtual carte blanche to arrest Muslims and send them to jail as suspected illegal immigrants. They could wait for years before being tried.

Mr Thackeray, the leader of Shiv Sena, a political party with a private army of 40,000 thugs called Sainiks, set a 15-day deadline for the expulsion of Bangladeshis and Pakistanis. He said the police and his Hindu supporters should jointly launch the operation.

and urged Indian Muslims to co-operate, and gave a warning that special passes may be issued to legal residents of Maharashtra to ensure that outsiders were kept out. The moves have been interpreted by Muslims as intended to intimidate them into leaving the state.

Mr Thackeray claimed that both he and Manohar Joshi, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra — a political pawn of Mr Thackeray — had received assassination threats. He declared: "If such an attack took place, then my Shiv Sainiks would wipe them [Muslims] from the entire country. I am giving them such a directive."

It is an Indian tradition not to refer to Muslim or Hindu communities by name in any sensitive context. There has never been any doubt, however, whom Mr Thackeray is talking about when he threatens "a certain community" or

"them", Sharad Pawar, the opposition leader in Maharashtra, said Mr Thackeray's statements were directed "at one community" [Muslims] and had created an atmosphere of terror. "A fascist force is coming up," he added. "Bombayites have already paid a price with the bomb blasts" — a reference to a bombing campaign in Bombay, possibly in reprisal for the destruction of a mosque in the northern city of Ayodhya in December 1992 by Hindu extremists.

Mr Thackeray's threats were issued through Shiv Sena's newspaper, *Samna*, which he uses as a personal mouthpiece. If a Bangladeshi or Pakistani dared touch him, "they will be completely ruined", he said.

They would not even be capable of returning to their own country. "In gangrene, you need to cut off the rotten parts, but we are not going to allow another partition of this country. This is crystal clear."

Mr Thackeray, whose party shares power in Maharashtra with the hardline pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party, has told Muslims to stop spilling on to the streets to pray, which, he said, held up traffic.

He has authorised police to enter mosques whenever they suspect illegal immigrants are inside. Such action could spark Hindu-Muslim riots, which would almost inevitably spread to other regions.

Sarfraz Arzoo, the editor of the Urdu-language daily, *Hindustan*, said Muslims feared police would plant weapons in mosques as an excuse to raid them and make mass arrests.



Thackeray: instructions to his private army

FBI joins hunt for killers of Aristide opponent

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

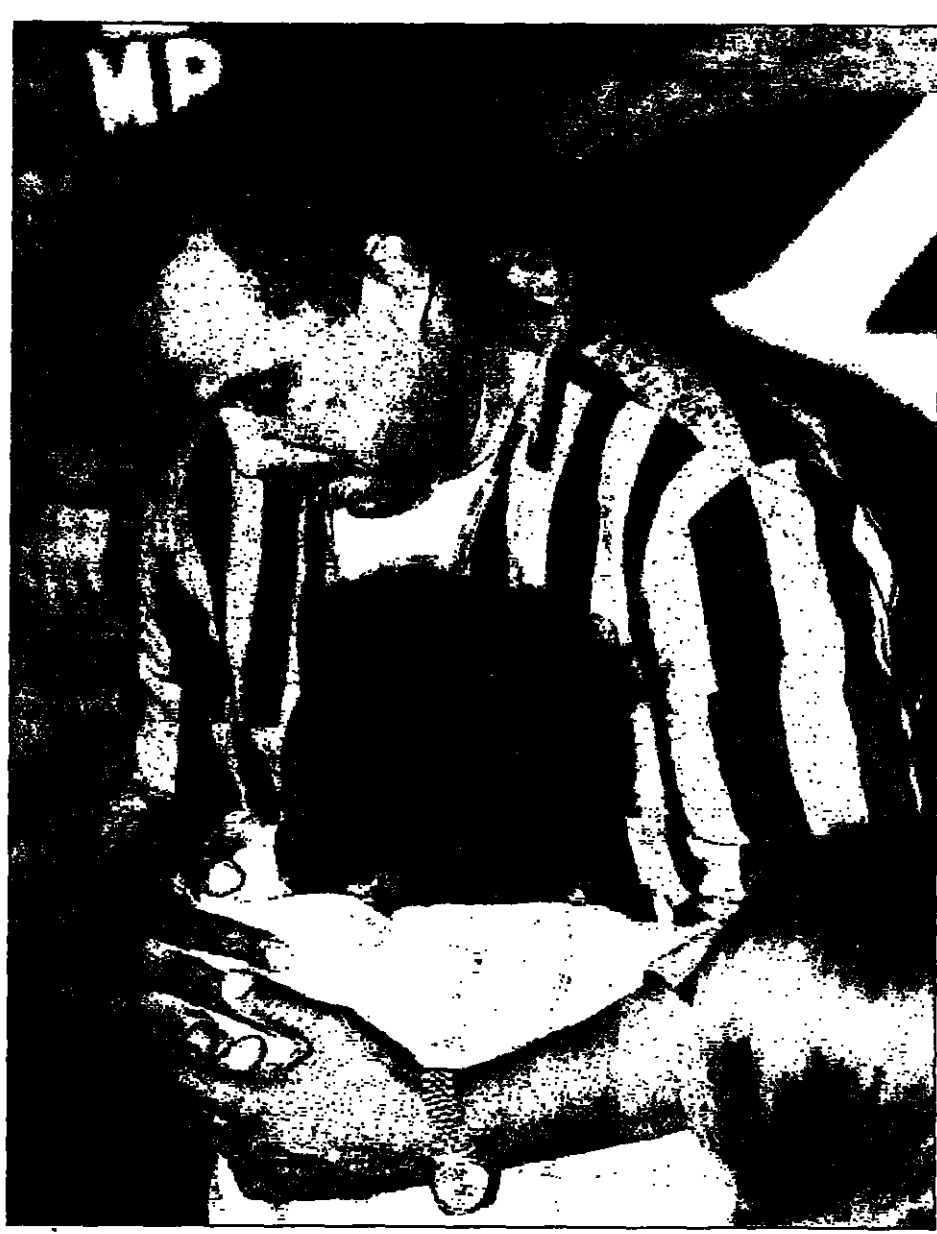
VIOLENCE is on the rise again in Haiti, only days before President Clinton is due to hand over control of the American-led forces there to the United Nations.

The latest victim, Mireille Durocher Bertin, 38, a lawyer and outspoken supporter of the military regime deposed by American troops last September, was shot as she drove down Martin Luther King Street in the centre of the capital, Port-au-Prince. The attackers, firing from a passing taxi, escaped, according to a Canadian police officer at the scene.

Her murder on Tuesday afternoon has highlighted a mounting wave of crime, denting the image of what has so far been described as a successful joint UN-US effort to build democracy in a country torn by political violence.

Human rights experts say that while the United States restored President Aristide to power, it has failed to ensure enough security for democracy to prosper. American efforts to establish a credible Haitian police force following the US invasion have failed and observers warn that the UN mission is not entering a "safe and secure environment" as required by the Security Council resolution that approved its peacekeeping role in Haiti.

The White House called the attack a "brutal act of violence", and the US Justice Department ordered FBI agents to Haiti yesterday to investigate the killing. But opponents of the US interven-



Jean Bertin, husband of Mireille Durocher Bertin, consoles the family's maid

tion blamed the killing on radical Aristide supporters and the Clinton Administration.

"There is only one person who must take responsibility for her death, and I am speaking of Bill Clinton. He is to blame for all the Haitians killed, assassinated since September 19," said Carl Dennis, a businessman with links to the former military regime. A

human rights report published yesterday blamed the current violence on a mistaken US policy of trying to create an interim Haitian police force out of the remnants of the Haitian army, instead of using untrained civilians. Although 300 of the army's worst human rights abusers have been purged, the report said that was "shockingly low" for an army

of 7,000 that was notorious for systematic abuses against civilians. In three years of military rule before Mr Aristide's return, an estimated 4,000 civilians were butchered by the Haitian army and police. A new civilian police force, currently undergoing training at a Canadian-run academy, takes over crime control in March next year.

Three die in Gaza border attack

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THREE people were killed in the Gaza Strip yesterday after a Palestinian blocked a road with his lorry and opened fire on a police vehicle escorting Jewish settlers near the settlement of Nezarim.

Two Israeli policemen and the Palestinian driver were killed and two other officers wounded after an exchange of gunfire and a collision between the two vehicles.

Israel's Army radio said the driver was angry over not getting a permit to work in Israel, which has banned tens of thousands of Gazans and severely limited vehicle access as a result of the recent spate of suicide bombings by Muslim opponents of the peace process.

The incident deepened the political crisis in Israel. More than 130 Jews have been killed since the peace accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation was signed 18 months ago. The Likud Party and other right-wing groups have tabled a no confidence motion in the Government.

On Tuesday, hundreds of Palestinians demonstrated at the main Erez crossing point into Gaza over the restrictions. Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, the Palestinian Finance Minister, told the crowd: "The Palestinian Authority will not allow Israeli products to enter if Israel continues its siege on the Strip."

Gaza passports: Palestinians will start carrying passports for the first time from tomorrow week when the Palestinian Authority in Gaza begins issuing the documents to about 870,000 residents of the self-rule parts of the region and Jericho.

Gingrich faces defeat on Bill to limit terms in Congress

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

NEWT GINGRICH was facing his first big defeat last night as the House of Representatives prepared to vote down one of the most popular planks of his *Contract with America* — a constitutional amendment limiting how long congressmen may serve.

Despite delaying the vote for two weeks, the House Speaker appeared well short of the two-thirds majority he needed for passage of any of the four different versions of "term limits" on offer, and was making strenuous efforts to deflect what looked certain to be considerable public anger. Polls show three-quarters of

Americans support term limits. Twenty-two states have passed their term limit laws, though the constitutionality of these laws has yet to be determined.

The Republican promise to limit congressional terms was one of the most attractive during last autumn's election campaign, seemingly exemplifying their determination to tear down the old "imperial Congress" that had lost touch with the people, but their enthusiasm for curtailing their careers has waned in office.

Even before last night's vote, Mr Gingrich was seeking to blame the Democrats for the amendment's defeat, and promising to keep reintroducing it until it passed, but

his Republican troops were divided, too. Between 30 and 40 of the 230 House Republicans opposed term limits on principle. The rest were unable to agree whether to limit themselves to six years, 12 years or whatever their home states decreed. There was general agreement that senators should be limited to 12 years.

Term limits was the ninth of the *Contract's* ten Bills to be voted on, and would be the first to be defeated. However, the tenth, promising middle-class and business tax cuts over the next five years, is also in trouble and could be rejected. That would bring the Republican revolution's first 100 days to a less than triumphant conclusion.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Algiers kills 1,300 rebels

Tunis: Members of The Armed Islamic Group (GIA), Algeria's most feared group of Muslim extremists, may have been among 1,300 rebels killed in what appears to be a huge sweep of militant strongholds. The daily *El Watan*, generally well informed on security issues, quoted what it called reliable sources as saying Djamel Zitouni, the alleged leader of the GIA, may have been killed in the government sweep. (Reuters)

Mayor on trial

Grenoble: Jacques Médecin, the former Mayor of Nice, has gone on trial for allegedly swindling the city's opera of two million francs (£20,000) after fleeing to South America four years ago. (Reuters)

Korea steps up

Paris: South Korea took another step in its 40-year rise out of poverty by formally applying to join the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the rich nations' club. (Reuters)

Pizza dough

New York: Donald and Ivana Trump, whose acrimonious divorce became an international soap opera, are to get a million dollars each to kiss and make up in a television advertisement for pizza.

Dire strait

Paris: Bad weather forced a French explorer, Emeric Fiset, 33, to abandon a solo attempt to cross the ice-covered Bering Strait with nine huskies from Alaska to Siberia. 40

THE HUNGRY MICROBE

HOW SIMPLE BACTERIA ARE PROVIDING AN ANSWER TO COMPLEX POLLUTION PROBLEMS

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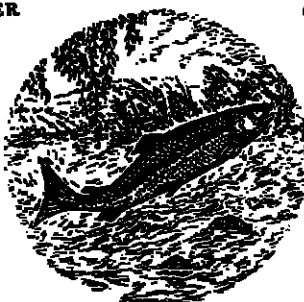
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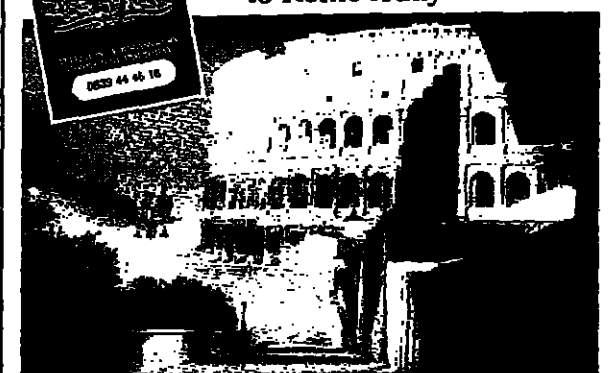
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THE TIMES Don't forget your passport



Splendour of Rome: the Colosseum is floodlit at night

ENTER today's Don't Forget Your Passport competition and you could be taking off later today on a short break to Rome.

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HOW TO ENTER

The winner of yesterday's Jordan tour was Susan Siddle, a catering assistant from Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

For a chance to win the Rome holiday for two, ring 0839 44 45 16 before 3pm with the answers to the following questions. We will contact you later today if you are the winner.

1) Who painted the Sistine Chapel ceiling?
2) What is the name of the city within Rome?

The winner will be drawn from all correct answers received by the time the lines close. Normal Times Newspaper competition rules apply. Calls cost 39p a minute, cheap rate and 49p at all other times.



How a baby's size may indicate heart trouble in later life □ Drugs that change the shape of men □ Evening primrose oil and hot flushes



STANDARD comments such as "a chubby little fellow" or "he'll soon put on weight — it's amazing how soon they catch up" are usually better received by a recently delivered mother than the news that the baby's abdominal girth is 31.2 cm.

Few would know that this is the average girth of a baby. Mothers are mainly interested in a baby's weight, but over the years doctors and nurses have also measured length, head circumference and abdominal girth.

Recently a team led by Professor D.J.P. Barker of the MRC Environmental Epidemiology Unit at the University of Southampton has been dusting down old files dating from the 1920s and 1930s, and seeing the relevance of those far-off recordings to the baby's subsequent health as an adult.

The Southampton scientists' research has now been published in the *British Medical Journal*. The statistics suggest that there is a correlation between the size of a baby's liver, its abdominal girth

The worth of girth at birth

and the likelihood of developing coronary heart disease. The Southampton report suggests that the variations in the abdominal circumference between different babies is mainly determined by the amount of fat in the abdominal wall and the size of the child's liver.

The scientists looked at the records from the Jessop Maternity Hospital in Sheffield of male babies born between 1922 and 1930. The survey found that major risk factors for coronary heart disease were: total serum blood cholesterol levels; the level of the more dangerous cho-



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

lesterol (the low-density lipoprotein); and the fibrinogen level. These were all higher in those patients who, as newborn babies, had been thin, and presumably in many cases had a small liver.

It seems that if in the later stages of pregnancy the mother is undernourished, the baby's brain is favoured as regards nourishment, to the detriment of the abdominal organs. If the liver is deprived when the child is in utero, the production and regulation of the serum fats and fibrinogen may be disturbed, and may never recover. The South-

ampton investigations have shown that these changes in cholesterol levels are reflected in an increased death rate from coronary thrombosis later.

The baby's abdominal girth has to be just the right size; too large a liver at birth may also be associated with heart disease in adult life. In these cases the liver may have become enlarged, and damaged, by excessive deposition of glycogen before birth.

Some of the seeds of heart disease can, it seems, be sown long before the victim is able to indulge any fondness for glutinous, sloth, tobacco or too much alcohol.

Sea change

THE seaside is a social nightmare for those ashamed of their physique, or worried about their acne. A new group can now be added to the number who avoid public exposure: the increasing number of men growing breasts as a result of medical treatment. The size of

male breasts is probably usually genetically determined and hereditary. Abnormal enlargement of the breast may be the result either of increased fat deposits or of an increase in true breast tissue. In the latter case, the condition is known as gynaecomastia. A common cause is consumption of too much alcohol over a long period, after which changes in the liver are followed by an excess of circulating female hormones that gives rise to over-riding of the hands and soles, shrinking genitalia and large breasts.

Many modern drugs can, in some cases, cause gynaecomastia. They range from some tranquilisers and anti-depressants to drugs used in the treatment of heart disease and high blood pressure, and a few rare antibiotics.

Investigations in Britain, conducted by Boston University, have recently been reported in the *BMJ*. They compare the number of cases of gynaecomastia in 81,535 men between the ages of 25 and 84 who had received cimetidine, omeprazole, misoprostol and ranitidine. The study shows that only cimetidine of the ulcer-healing drugs is associated with an appreciable risk of inducing gynaecomastia. Even so, only about 0.8 per cent of men who took the drug suffered gynaecomastia.

Experimental work had already shown that though cimetidine increased the levels of circulating oestradiol, a female hormone, neither ranitidine nor omeprazole had this effect. Cimetidine is available under several brand names. The best-known is Tagamet. Ranitidine is marketed as Zantac and omeprazole as Losec.

Hot spot

GAMOLENIC acid (evening primrose oil) is becoming a common constituent in many people's bathroom cupboards. It has a reputation for reducing breast pain in women as well as being beneficial in skin diseases, and many other diverse complaints in patients of both sexes. As a natural product, evening primrose oil starts with an advantage, and it has been shown to be largely free

of side-effects, although the occasional patient may suffer slight nausea or headaches.

Keele University, the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine in London and Scotia Pharmaceuticals have recently carried out a trial of gamolenic acid for patients suffering from menopausal hot flushes. Fifty-six women who were suffering at least three severe hot flushes a day were randomly selected, and given four capsules daily, all containing either evening primrose oil with vitamin E, or nothing more therapeutic than liquid paraffin.

The result showed that evening primrose oil is not an effective way of treating the 50 per cent of menopausal women who suffer from severe hot flushes. Apart from some minimal reduction in the number of night-time attacks, the patients taking gamolenic acid fared no better than those swallowing liquid paraffin.

There are many women for whom HRT, the obvious answer to menopausal troubles, is contraindicated for medical reasons, and others who are reluctant to take it; but evening primrose does not seem to be a suitable alternative.

Mother's battle of the bulge

Dr James Le Fanu challenges a biologist's claims that conflict rather than harmony reigns in the womb

Thanks to ultrasound the development of a foetus in its mother's womb can be observed virtually from the beginning, and it has become clear that the foetus is not just growing, but orchestrating the physiological changes in its mother that allow it to do so.

This process starts right from the moment of fertilisation. Then the conceptus, still little more than a few undifferentiated cells, secretes the hormone HCG which maintains the secretion of progesterone by the ovary. This prevents menstruation, so the lining of the womb, or endometrium, is kept ready

for implantation. As soon as implantation occurs the embryo secretes another hormone which encourages the endometrium to become richer with the nutrients and blood vessels necessary for its growth.

The foetal placenta which attaches itself to the wall of the uterus is the means through which the foetus will obtain all the energy and nutrients it requires. But the placenta is much more than a communication channel, it is a factory producing enormous quantities of hormones which pass into the mother's circulation.

The most important of these is oestrogen, which encour-



A human foetus at about four months: some scientists believe it is locked in a genetic competition with its mother

ages the uterus to grow to a capacity 1,000 times greater than in the non-pregnant state, stimulates the milk-producing cells of the breast, and increases the amount of blood circulating in the veins

and arteries by 50 per cent. Then there is human placental lactogen, or HPL, which mobilises free fatty acids from the mother's fat stores to provide the energy for the foetus to grow, and increases

the amount of insulin secreted from the mother's pancreas. This in turn boosts amino acids, the building blocks of foetal tissues.

The precise details of these and many other foetal influences on the mother fill chapters of modern textbooks of obstetrics, but the general impression is of a mysterious symbiotic relationship, in which mother and foetus conspire to realise the outcome that is so clearly desirable for both — the birth of a normal healthy baby.

Next Monday a contrary view will be proposed in a *Horizon* documentary (BBC2, 8pm) devoted to Harvard biologist David Haig. Rather than a harmonious relationship between mother and foetus, Dr Haig sees conflict — a struggle between the interests of the genes of the foetus and those of the mother.

"Foetal genes are selected to increase the transfer of nutrients to the foetus, and maternal genes are selected to limit that transfer," Dr Haig writes in *The Quarterly Review of Biology*. "Thus a process of evolutionary escalation is predicted in which foetal actions are opposed by maternal countermeasures."

Dr Haig elaborates his theory to explain the two main complications of pregnancy — diabetes and raised blood pressure. Influenced by HPL from the placenta, the maternal metabolism of glucose increases during pregnancy to provide the energy for the foetus to grow. This in turn increases the mother's requirements for insulin, to keep the glucose levels in her own blood within normal limits. If the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas are unable to deliver, her blood sugar rises, resulting in diabetes.

Similarly the maternal blood pressure influences the perfusion of the placenta, and Dr Haig postulates that the foetal cells, to improve their chances of survival, secrete a substance to boost the mother's blood pressure. This may lead to the condition of pre-eclampsia which damages the mother's kidneys and can, if untreated, result in convulsions and death.

This evidence of conflict might just as readily be explained as an unfortunate failure of the complex homeostatic adjustments the mother has to make to protect the survival of the baby. Indeed, it is difficult to see how the foetal genes are pursuing their self-interest by generating conflict that results in conditions which, before modern medicine, were likely to lead to its own death. If not its mother's.

But Dr Haig's theory does

highlight the most remarkable phenomenon in human reproductive biology. Theoretically the mother should reject the foetus because it is genetically different. Just as she would reject a transplanted organ. She does not do so, however, because the cells of the placenta are unique in not expressing on their surface the antigens which the mother's immune system would interpret as foreign. The foetus is immunologically "invisible".

In evolutionary terms this could be interpreted as evidence of a successful adaptation by which the "selfish" genes of the foetus ensure their own continued propagation — but it might more appropriately be described as a miracle.

Population mix theory gains ground

Is leukaemia infectious?

Some ideas catch the public imagination so powerfully that they acquire a life of their own, even when the evidence no longer favours them. One such is the theory that radiation from nuclear plants is responsible for clusters of leukaemia cases among children living in the neighbourhood. Initially persuasive, the grounds for believing this have been steadily eroded by the work of Dr Leo Kinlen of the Cancer Research Campaign's Epidemiology Unit in Oxford.

His latest paper, published in last week's *British Medical Journal*, greatly strengthens the hypothesis that leukaemia and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma are in fact infectious diseases, unconnected with radiation. What the infective agent is remains unknown; but the pattern of the disease uncovered by Dr Kinlen and his colleagues seems to fit only with that explanation.

Dr Kinlen has examined large rural construction sites, such as oil refineries and fossil fuel power stations, built by workers who moved into the area from outside. His belief is that it is the mixing of populations caused by such movements that transfers the infective agent from infected to susceptible individuals.

Clearly, since leukaemia is a rare condition, many people must carry the agent without coming to any harm. But if the opportunity arises for it to spread to others who lack resistance, particularly children, then clusters are likely in places where populations

from different areas and social classes mix.

The latest data come from power station projects including the Drax plant in Yorkshire and Fawley in Hampshire, and other big construction projects in Wales and Scotland. In the area of each project, the numbers of cases recorded in children up to the age of 14 were compared with the number expected.

The results show that these non-nuclear sites suffered the same excess of cases as did the big nuclear site at Sellafield. Overall, the ratio of observed to expected cases in Sellafield is 1.7:1, almost exactly the same as that for the other projects. The ratio is larger when operation of the plant overlapped with its construction, and larger, too, among higher social classes.

This may explain the particular case of Seascale, a village favoured by many middle-class Sellafield staff, where there have been about ten times as many cases as expected. Seascale has seen a tremendous movement of population to and fro, creating a steady re-supply of susceptible children. "I have now done ten studies showing the same thing," says Dr Kinlen. "I feel like the 19th-century epidemiologists who showed that diseases like measles and mumps were catching, without knowing what actually caused them. It's over to the microbiologists — or more likely, the virologists."

NIGEL HAWKES

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Our favourite Yank

Joanna Pitman talks to America's former Ambassador about why he decided to stay in Britain

The Seitz appreciation society will be delighted to hear that Britain is, after all, going to keep Raymond Seitz for a few years more. As American exports go, he is surely up there alongside Coca-Cola and it was with open reluctance that we had resigned ourselves to releasing one of the most popular and effective American Ambassadors to the Court of St James's to return to some high-altitude throne on American soil.

Now he has decided to stay on in London, after all. On April 10 he will take up office as a London-based senior managing director of Lehmann Brothers' European investment banking division.

But we should not, he points out, with an unmistakably British brand of needling humour, flatter ourselves that his decision has been made as a result of an overbearing love for Britain. "I've always been very leery on the question of staying just because I like the place so much. The decision has not been easy."

"It was a big move to leave the foreign service which I liked very much, but the move into international finance was not designed in order for us to be able to stay in Britain. It is simply a happy coincidence. I have always been attracted to international finance."

The London surroundings will undoubtedly add to his enjoyment of the new post. "I do love London and there are an awful lot of interesting people here, which makes the place immensely attractive." But he is adamant that he has not acquired anything so vulgar as "British instincts". He recoils at the prospect as if I have slapped him in the face with a slab of Yorkshire pudding. "I think I would have had to be medically evacuated by now if that were the case," he snorts with his roaring, patrician heehaw of a laugh.

Seitz knows that he will continue to be made very

welcome indeed in London. And rightly so, for his ambassadorship has been a class act that has furnished him with a wide range of contacts, friends and admirers. He has spent a total of 13 years in London covering three tours of duty, including an unprecedented extension in 1993 — encouraged by subtle prodding from the Foreign Office and not so subtle clamouring from the British media — into a second term as Ambassador, in spite of the American tradition of replacing key envoys with each new administration.

He has the reputation — rare in Britain — as an intelligent interpreter "from the other side" of the Anglo-American alliance. He has had no trouble distinguishing himself from previous occupants of the post, almost all of whom were appointed as reward for generous donations to political arsenals.

During an era of Anglo-American relations that has traced a vertiginous progression of leaps through

high point and low, and has wobbled much in between, he has brought to the role the kind of dedicated passion and wisdom that a fighting parson might bring to a war for liberty.

There was a constructive savagery in his relations with his former employers. When President Bush made a fool of himself trying to appoint a discredited crony as Secretary for Defence, Seitz astonished guests at an official lunch with a series of jokes at the expense of the President, designed to deflect the perceived shame thrust upon America.

When President Clinton was careering down a path of self-ridicule with vague, ambiguous and at times patently confused foreign policy statements, Seitz was prepared to voice open rebukes. But his coolest and most devastating thrust came with the comment "we seem incapable of establishing what our interest is". The nadir of his ambassador-



Raymond Seitz: "An awful lot of interesting people here — the place is immensely attractive"

ship came when Clinton decided to waive the ban on Gerry Adams visiting the United States. Seitz managed this disaster with customary dignity but, as he says now, "I think my opinion on the matter was written all over my face."

Seitz is a diplomat to his very fingertips. Born in Honolulu in 1940, his future as a promoter of the Atlantic Alliance came naturally, almost automatically, as a consequence of his family's history. "My father commanded one of the American regiments that landed on Omaha beach on D-Day," he says. And 15 years later the young Raymond visited the coastline and the cemeteries of the battlefield and acquired an unabashed devotion to Anglo-American romanticism. (The flag of his father's regiment stood on his desk throughout his time at the embassy.)

After a smooth transition from Yale into the foreign service in 1966, he swept through the ranks, being posted early on to Montreal, Nairobi and Zaire and then taking up his first post in London in 1975. "The high point of my time in London — I know it sounds awfully esoteric — was, I think, the difficult decision in 1982-84 which led to short-range nuclear missiles being recalled. This made

a big difference in the way the transatlantic alliance was viewed and I think it was right and important and hastened the end of the Cold War."

Still only 54, Seitz's face is long, his forehead high and smooth, his demeanour high-bred. No longer required to perform the nimble juggling of diplomacy, you get the sense that he relishes the prospect of hand-to-hand fighting in the jungle of investment banking.

Margot Norman peers through a glass ceiling

Can't women make it in Whitehall?

When Jennifer Forsyth joined the Civil Service in 1945, there were more women heading government departments than there are now. Miss Forsyth, who reached the level of Under-Secretary at the Department of Transport before retiring and becoming a Labour councillor in Kensington and Chelsea, remembers Mary Smeaton as Permanent Secretary at Education. Muriel Riddell was at the then DHSS and, of course, the redoubtable Dame Evelyn Sharp was at Housing and Local Government. There was also Elsie Abbott as Deputy Secretary at the Treasury.

Now, after ten years of active encouragement and monitoring of women's progress up through the ranks, the Civil Service can point to only one woman who has made it to permanent secretary. This is Valerie Strachan who, as head of Customs and Excise, has an important job but not one regarded as one of the service's real plums. (At yesterday's press conference the Civil Service also claimed the Director of Public Prosecutions, Barbara Mills, whose position holds permanent secretary rank, but this is disingenuous, since she made her way to the top as a barrister before becoming a civil servant.)

"Evelyn Sharp was a role model for us all," says Miss Forsyth. "The Civil Service was rightfully proud of her: if anyone criticised their treatment of women they would point to her." She was a highly visible role model too: in 1961 the *Daily Mail* ran a banner headline asking "The dame — is she Britain's most powerful woman?"

Richard Crossman portrayed her in his diaries as a dragon. "Wanting improvement and social justice quite passionately and yet a tremendous patrician and utterly contemptuous and arrogant... She sees the ordinary human being as incapable of making a sensible decision."

Dame Evelyn, who was made a baroness, hit back at

her former minister in public. In her, career-minded young women could clearly see the possibility of achieving power and influence through the Civil Service.

So why, after all these years, have more of them not done so? Jennifer Forsyth remembers her prospects changing sharply as men returning from the war entered the Civil Service and, in effect, elbowed the women out of the way. "It became



Dame Evelyn Sharp. Daughter of an Ealing vicar, and the highest paid woman in the Civil Service, is to be a Deputy Secretary of Local Government and Planning. Her salary is £2,200 a year. Times 14.2.51.

very male dominated — one had to button one's lip when one found oneself working under less able men."

But since 1989, when Dame Anne Mueller as Second Permanent Secretary at the Treasury (the only woman of that rank at the time) published her report *Alternative Working Patterns* and introduced part-time working, job-sharing and a whole collection of new arrangements designed to help women civil servants rise, the Civil Service has been regarded as a model of family-friendliness in comparison with the private sector.

Yet the proportion of 10 per cent of women in the top three grades has not shifted since 1989. Twice as many women as men were resign-

ing ten years ago, and the proportion had still not dropped greatly. Anne Mueller points to the senior women about to break through to the top level — Anne Bowtell, for example, who has brought up four children and will become Permanent Secretary at Health — and says it is all a matter of time. "It takes 30 years to work your way up the ladder, so it's a question of waiting a bit longer. The main obstacles to women's promotion have definitely now been removed."

Kate Jenkins left the Civil Service after 20 years because, like many civil servants who saw the way the Tory wind was blowing in the 1980s, she wanted management experience. As head of the Prime Minister's efficiency unit she had, however, been chief architect of the policy of creating quasi-autonomous government agencies, in which several women now hold chief executive posts. She is surprised, and concerned, that there are still so few female permanent and deputy secretaries.

In fact, the proliferation of agencies has made promotion prospects worse for civil servants of both sexes, simply because the jobs are advertised and are open to private sector people. Jo Ouston, a career development consultant, detects a lot of unwarranted anti-Civil Service prejudice. "The Civil Service is doing its best," she says, "but it has contracted so sharply that there just aren't the interesting jobs available for its brightest people to do."

"Not untypical is one high-flier in her thirties at the Overseas Development Agency, for whom there simply wasn't a suitable job, so the Department let her go to the European Commission and will have her back without loss of seniority for up to five years. There is simply a promotion log-jam, and it is hitting the very high-grade people who, had they chosen the private sector would have had great careers."

Julia Llewellyn Smith on marriage Hollywood-style

Hello! and goodbye

Marriages made in Hollywood conform to the simplest rules of scriptwriting: they all have a beginning, a middle and, inevitably, an end. Yesterday, Julia Roberts and Lyle Lovett

became the latest Tinseltown couple to issue a statement which waffles on about remaining "close and in great support of each other". In other words, after less than two years of marriage, they are legally separating.

Movie stars and monogamy go together like cornflakes and Tabasco. In the past year we have endured the splits of Richard Gere and Cindy Crawford, Roseanne and Tom Arnold, Billy Joel and Christie Brinkley. But as the Royal Family know you should get straight back on a horse after a fall, most of them have already returned to the register office, vowing that this time it is for ever.

It is not as if the Pretty Woman and her ugly country-and-western singing husband will be wondering how they will ever get used to sleeping alone. In their 21 months of marriage, the couple barely saw each other and were usually working thousands of miles apart.

Such stories are rarely greeted with sobers. We know that these sacrifices are the downside of multi-million dollar contracts. More importantly, we suspect that such unions had little to do with passion in the first place, and everything to do with magazine covers and improved ratings.

In Hollywood, a marriage is not for life, but until you find a new agent: a celebrity spouse is just as much of an accessory as a Prada handbag, to be discarded with each new season.

"This is the only place in the world where an amicable divorce means that each gets 50

per cent of the publicity," said Lauren Bacall.

None of these stars are on the headline, yet they still seem compelled to exploit their so-called heartbreak. On Saturday night, America will be treated to the multi-millionaire Donald Trump and his acrimonious ex-wife, Ivana, kissing and making up on television in an advertisement for Pizza Hut, for which they were paid \$1 million each. "You just can't turn down that kind of money," he said.

A price cannot be put on a reputation, however, as Michael Jackson discovered when rumours began about his sexuality. The gossip mill was silenced when he "secretly" married Elvis's daughter Lisa Marie. The ring was scarcely on her finger before divorce talk began, but no matter — the damage had been limited. Crawford and Gere have never been able to quash rumours about their preferences.

Hollywood has always been a hall of mirrors. Long before the birth of *Hello!* magazine's showbiz "happy couples" profiles, studios realised the value of "lavender marriages". The homosexual heart-throb Rudolph Valentino, one of the earliest screen idols of the 1920s, married the lesbian Jean Acker. Greta Garbo, Tallulah Bankhead, Charles Laughton, Cary Grant, Montgomery Clift, James Dean and Anthony Perkins were some of the idols who chose marriage to hide their sexuality or promiscuity. The public may not have been convinced, but reputations were saved.



Lyle Lovett and Julia Roberts: barely saw each other

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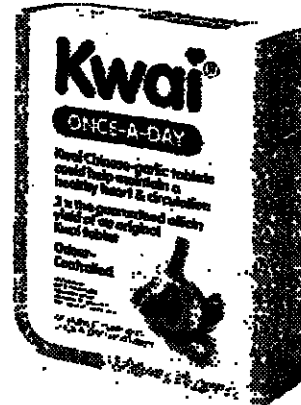
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Janet Daley



■ Labour is bound to be disingenuous about law and order. But Tory whining will not win the debate

I never expected to find myself agreeing with Edward Heath. But I gave a half-hearted cheer when he told the Government to "Shut up about the BBC... and get down to the brass tacks of answering the points which have been made". Half-hearted because I see little sign that this Cabinet is capable of recognising a political advantage when it jumps into its lap. For example: the Shadow Home Secretary, Jack Straw, staged a press conference in which he offered up as news some reworded "shock" statistics about crime. Homeowners have a one in 11 chance of being burgled in a year and there is a one in 64 chance of becoming a victim of violent crime. The chances of your car or its contents being stolen are one in five, blah, blah. The punchline was that crime had got much worse under the Tories.

Not only is there nothing new in these figures but in presenting them, Mr Straw used the scaremongering tactic that is often criticised by the Left when it has its other — The Crime Wave is a Myth — hat on. That is, he confounded property crime with personal violence, thus making people feel at more physical risk than they actually are. This is the sort of cheap thing that parties in Opposition do in the run-up to elections. And the media cannot ignore them.

If they did, they would be just accused of taking their news pegs only from the Government.

So, presented with this well-publicised soft target by the Opposition, what do the Tories do? They shriek at the BBC for giving it too much coverage. What they might have done instead was to regard the prominence given to this non-story as a gift. It could have licensed them to tear into the real history of rising crime in this country and to trace it back to Labour policies. Had they been interested in countering the substance of Jack Straw's case instead of indulging in another self-playing whinge about the BBC, they might have won a round in a genuine debate about the decline of law and order.

Labour seems to have two grounds for blaming rising crime on the Tories. One is the historical fact that they have been in power for the past 15 years, during which crime has escalated (or "soared out of control" as politicians put it, when it suits them). But that is only to say that they have been in office for the latter half of the period in which crime has exponentially increased. The dramatic upward curve in the crime figures began in the 1960s and has been rising more or less inexorably ever since. This trajectory has been largely unaffected by the changes in political complexion of the governments

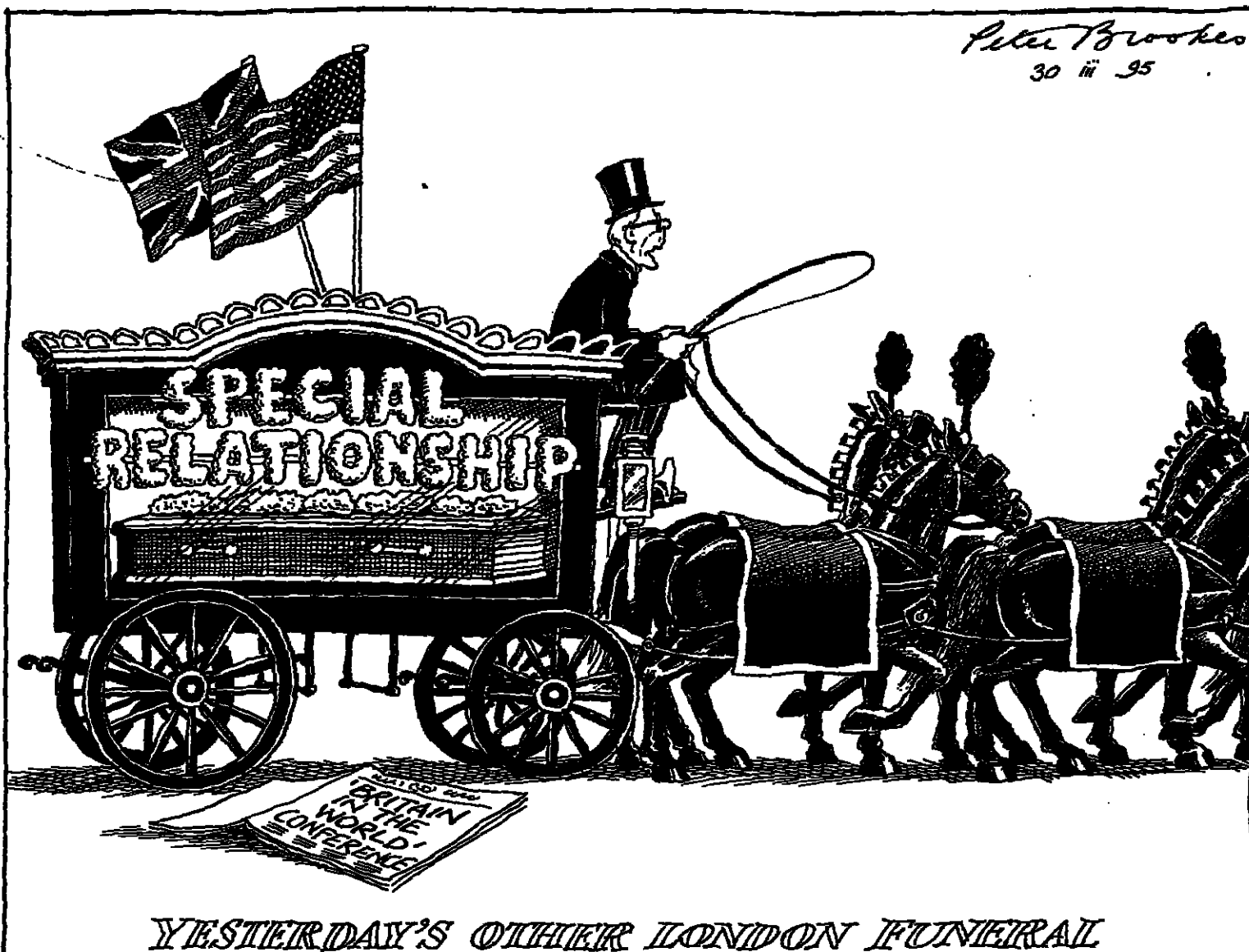
in power during that time. It is almost certainly a safe assumption that whoever had held office during the last decade and a half would have been lumbered with the same dire record on law and order.

The other basis for the charge that the Tories have actively made crime worse, is more theological: by encouraging greed and increasing unemployment, they have produced a more unequal and immoral society. People who are robbed of economic hope and at the same time exposed to mass acquisitiveness are more likely to resort to crime. But another way of seeing the social changes of the past 15 years is that most people in society have been able to purchase the kind of consumer durables which thieves covet — because a great many people have become much more affluent. Those who have not feel alienated precisely because they are a shrinking minority. The possibility of accumulating valuable private goods has been extended much more widely in Britain than ever before, which gives more scope for property crime, particularly in working-class areas. As a taxi driver from the East End once said to me: "People say they used to be able to leave their doors unlocked. They forget that then they didn't have anything worth stealing."

As everyone — even Jack Straw — admits, crime is largely an inner-city problem. And who made the inner cities what they are? Which party in local government drove out middle-class homeowners by insisting that they subsidise council estates where rent defaulters were never pursued? Which councils pushed up rates to levels that drove businesses out of its areas, thus ruining local employment prospects? Labour, of course. And it was Labour who supported teaching unions when they dismantled literature education and pulled out of super-vising the after-school activities that used to keep wayward children off the streets. And Labour councils who often banned policemen from coming into schools to talk to children.

The inner cities have been Labour strongholds for a generation. It was Labour education and housing policies which turned them from vibrant mixed communities into one-class ghettos from which anyone with aspirations sought escape — leaving the schools and the housing to deteriorate. And guilt itself was nearly defined out of existence by an army of probation officers and social workers who are all part of Labour's natural constituency. That is what the Government would say, if it were not brain-dead.

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Sitting in judgment

Michelangelo's painting in the Sistine Chapel may reflect his private hell

On October 12, 1534, Alexander Farnese, the Dean of the College of Cardinals, was elected Pope and took the name of Paul III. It was one of the shortest conclaves on record, the proceedings being completed inside a single day. Paul III had already been a Cardinal for 40 years; he was 66 and seemed to be in frail health. It was said that "ambitious cardinals expected that his reign could not be long before he made way for one of them". In fact he reigned until 1549, and was the Pope who formulated the main counter-Reformation policy. He called the Council of Trent; he excommunicated King Henry VIII; he restored the prosperity of Rome after the sack by the Emperor's troops in 1527; he authorised the foundation of the Jesuits.

Paul III was also one of the greatest patrons of Michelangelo. He employed him as an architect on the Palazzo Farnese, and commissioned him to paint the *Last Judgment* on the altar wall of the Sistine Chapel. Last weekend I was in Rome for Margaret Thatcher's opening of the Eden Hotel, which has been refurbished by Forte. A small group of us were given the privilege of a private visit to the Sistine Chapel.

Viewing the chapel in a small group does remove one of the difficulties in the way of appreciating it. Others remain. Generations of tourists have found it hard to see the ceiling without getting a crick in the neck. The cleaning has greatly enhanced the painting; one used to see dark forms behind the discoloured varnish. There are some discordant colours, where different pigments have aged in different ways, but that is a small price to pay.

Yet the difficulty of the Sistine Chapel is not simply tourist crowds or matters of restoration. The chapel is at least three different things: a place of worship, a work of art, and a scene of history. As a place of worship few people find it ideal. Despite the triumphalist architecture, it is easier to pray in St Peter's itself; in the Sistine Chapel, the feeling is different. One is too conscious both of the aesthetic impact and of the wealth and power of the Catholic Church as an institution.

Even as a work of art, the Sistine Chapel is by no means easy. The ceiling can perhaps be regarded as a welcoming work of art, almost distractingly beautiful. But the great *Last Judgment* dominates the whole. One does not just drop in on

Michelangelo's *Last Judgment* as one might drop in on a Gainsborough portrait in the National Gallery. To do so would be like taking a paperback of Milton's *Paradise Lost* to read for an hour on a short flight. Michelangelo's painting is very demanding, in its structure as a composition and in its communication as a work of religion.

The composition follows a traditional pattern. Christ is the central figure, in a luminous oval; the dead are rising again, watched by angels and saints; some are rising towards heaven, others are falling towards hell, which is at the foot of the painting on Christ's left-hand side as he faces the viewer. If one compares the Sistine Chapel with Giotto's fresco in the Arena Chapel in Padua, which was painted rather more than 200 years earlier, there are a number of significant differences. All Michelangelo's figures are seen in motion, a swirl of movement in an arc from those rising on the right to those falling on the left. Giotto's people stand in stiff rows. Giotto has Christ outlined in an egg-shaped oval, standing on his own. In Michelangelo the oval is not outlined, and is not regular; Christ has his mother at his right-hand side.

The pose of Christ is quite different from Giotto's conception. Giotto's Christ is full of manifest compassion, with both arms outstretched. Michelangelo's has his right arm raised in a gesture reminiscent of an orchestral conductor calling for silence. Vasari talks about "terribilita", but the gesture seems more one of suspense than a threat. Michelangelo's Christ has absolute authority. In a preliminary sketch now in Florence, compassion is expressed not by Christ but by his mother, who is looking upwards with a gesture beseeching mercy for the world. In the Sistine Chapel she is turning away, as though in distress: Vasari even thought she was intended to appear afraid of her son.

As Paul III was the great Pope of the early counter-Reformation, one might have expected the *Last Judgment* that he commissioned to be a counter-Reformation icon, a statement in paint of the Roman Catholicism that was to be asserted by the Council of Trent and by the Jesuits. It is nothing of the kind. Apart from a rosary and St Peter, who appears holding the key of heaven, there is little specifically Catholic symbolism: the cast includes early saints and Jewish patriarchs who would have been as familiar and acceptable to Luther as to Paul III. The *Last Judgment* is an extraordinarily powerful religious painting, but it represents the inspiration of the artist, although working in an established tradition rather than being propaganda for a specifically Roman view of the Faith. Indeed from a very early time some people criticised it for heterodoxy.

Michelangelo drew on a variety of traditions, on the Bible, on Christian myth, on medieval cosmology, on Dante's *Inferno* and on the journey to the underworld in Virgil's *Aeneid*. The period was one of intense religious speculation, not only in the Protestant north of Europe, but equally in Renaissance Italy. This included neo-Platonists, and Michelangelo seems to portray Christ as a Platonic ideal, a perfect standard by which universal judgment could be made, rather than a compassionate and human redeemer. Michelangelo himself had been closely associated with neo-Platonists in the Medici circle.

One of the chief concerns of the neo-Platonists, as of human beings in every generation, was human survival after death. Henry More, the 17th-century Cambridge Platonist, tells this story: "That eminent Platonist, Marsilius Ficinus, after a warm dispute of the immortality of the soul, made a solemn vow with his fellow Platonist Michael Mercatus, but whether of them two died first should appear to his friend, and given him certain information of that truth... Michael Mercatus being very intent at his studies betimes on a morning heard an horse riding by with all speed, and observed that he stopped at his window, and therewith heard the voice of his friend Ficinus crying

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William Rees-Mogg

out loud: 'O Michael, Michael, vera, vera, sunt illa' [these things are true]. He suddenly opened the window, and spying Marsilius on a white steed, called after him, but he vanished in his sights... he died about that hour."

If we try to understand Michelangelo's *Last Judgment*, we have to accept that he believed that what he was painting was true; he did not think he was painting a mere illustration to a story. This is difficult for modern people, since hell is the most discredited part of traditional Christianity. We have gained and lost by this rejection of hell. What we have gained is a stronger belief in God's mercy; indeed I believe in the compassionate Christ of Giotto rather than the apparently implacable Christ of Michelangelo. What we have lost is the recognition of the reality of evil, and this in the century of Auschwitz.

The late Bede Griffiths, the saintly Benedictine monk who studied the Eastern religions, puts the problem very well: "Each religion contends with this problem of justice and mercy, wrath and love, law and grace, and in a sense the conflict can never be resolved, as long as we remain on the level of duality... perhaps the problem is most acute with the Christian doctrine of hell and eternal punishment. In both Hinduism and Buddhism hell is a temporary state and no one is condemned to eternal punishment." Even in Michelangelo hell is for the sin rather than the sinner; a scholar of the period, George Bull, tells me that there is evidence that the figures falling into hell represent the deadly sins, not individual sinners.

There are some medieval illustrations which show the soul of the individual as containing the whole universe, following the statement in St Luke's Gospel: "The kingdom of heaven is within you." In these illustrations also, Christ is at the centre, sometimes with his mother. One can read the *Last Judgment* in the Sistine Chapel as an inner portrait of Michelangelo himself, with the redeemer at the centre of the human soul and the demons in a dark and subterranean subconscious. This hell is what is what Swedenborg, the remarkable Swedish mystic, called "vastation": what is certain is that Michelangelo had personally experienced the dark night of the soul.

America's new special relationship

Henry Kissinger on Britain's role in the world

At the end of the Second World War, Britain was the only country that had not been occupied at one stage or another, that had preserved its institutions and its inward strength and had therefore made the transition from power to influence in an extraordinary manner. It took exceptional self-discipline and skill for a country that had been at the centre of world affairs to shift its emphasis in this way. And while the Gaullist approach to America was to make disagreements extremely painful, the British approach was to make disagreements extremely embarrassing.

Since then, many of the tacit bargains by which Europe and the United States and the European/American relationship were constructed have been altered. The Cold War has obviously ended. The division of Germany has also gone, and with it the position in which France had a certain kind of political leadership on the Continent, and Germany a certain kind of economic leadership. The United States performed the security role. Germany was linked to the US through Nato and through France to the European Union; and Britain was extremely helpful in establishing an overall framework. Now that relationship has to be redefined.

I do not agree with those who believe that the United States should now shift this special relationship to Germany. It is not helpful to Germany and it is not meaningful for the United States. We should not have a special Continental partner and I do not know any German leader who aspires to such a position. What is needed is co-operation with Europe in the transition to the conduct of a global policy, without enemies.

There have been two approaches to European/American relations. One was the Gaullist approach for which, in my writings, I have had great sympathy. It reflected the necessities of a country that had gone through tremendous difficulties in the War and in the colonial period and that needed to reaffirm its identity. The second was the British approach which, more secure in its identity, sought to establish a pattern of co-operation with the United States. This was very difficult to challenge because it reflected the convictions and common interests of both sides. The British approach also reflected an historic tradition of a global, foreign policy, while the French approach was more closely geared to the calculations of the margins on which stability in central Europe depended.

In the period of the Cold War, when the United States had the dominant role in security and when there was only one visible international challenge, it made some sense to define European identity by trying to wrest it from the United States.

Today, nothing is easier to achieve than to have America turn away from Europe; nothing is simpler than to convince Americans that they have no special interest in Europe. The tasks that Europe has are now so manifold that they do not have to be sanctioned by the United States. The participation of the central European countries in the European Union is an obvious example. There is no need, for America to take a position or to involve itself. Whether Europe should follow a multiple geometry or be more closely integrated makes a difference in the relations between Europe and the US but it cannot be affected significantly by American pronouncements. As Europe expands, I personally believe that a more flexible approach is probably the more effective.

In America, we need to give a priority to European relations that frankly has been lacking. Therefore, the debate about Nato membership ought not to be permitted to fester indefinitely. It is no longer possible to build an Atlantic relationship exclusively on security issues.

There was a period in which I thought that the next phase of American foreign policy should be to concentrate on building a western hemisphere community. I still think that that is an important enterprise but I believe more that what we now need to do is to examine the idea of some form of North Atlantic free trade association, or free trade agreement. Whatever America builds in the western hemisphere, could then be related to such an association, and it would enable us to act with some purpose and some direction.

A succession of American leaders of both political parties have over a period of more than a generation considered it natural that on major issues Britain and the United States would seek to co-operate. They would have a level of consultation that was never formalised but was central to the formation of policy in both countries. Now, the challenge is whether this can be done with European/American relations and this is where Britain's experience can make a seminal contribution. Europe does not need to wrest its identity any longer from the United States.

● This is an extract from Dr Kissinger's speech to the Conference on "Britain in the world".

Doubly hurt

DISASTER has befallen a lady-in-waiting to Princess Margaret. On her return from holiday in Barbados, Jane Stevens discovered that thieves had raided the garden of her Oxfordshire home. The vandals decapitated an antique lead statue of a Cavalier soldier, and then made off with four other statues.

She is devastated. "The statues had been here for many years and they were part of this beautiful place," said the former wife of Jocelyn Stevens, the chairman of English Heritage. "The thieves broke down the gate on two nights running to get in. They didn't get everything they wanted the first time, so they came back again the following night."

In the first raid at the converted mill near Abingdon the thieves left the severed head after falling to wrench the statue from its plinth; they then stole a sculpture of a heron. The second time they took two stone ornaments and a bronze eagle. They had to cut off the bird's beak and feet to break it loose.

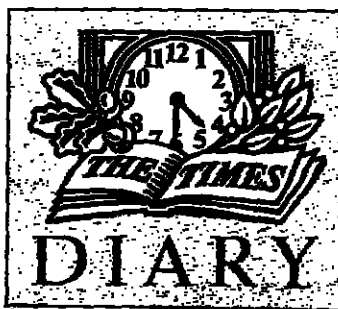
Mrs Stevens, who lives at Kensington Palace when in London, is still opening her garden to the

public on April 2. But she has complained that the police were slow to act. A spokesman from Thames Valley rejected the suggestion. "She is upset because she felt the police were not paying any attention. But the problem was that the housekeeper, who reported the crime in her absence, could not give us any details."

● Live television coverage of Ronie Kray's funeral cortege through London's East End yesterday provoked a minor hitch for one burly minder with a crew-cut. When his mother spotted him on the box, she rang him immediately on his mobile phone. "Not now, Mum," he cooed, fending off the crowds with his free hand. "I'm a touch busy."

French class

USHERETTES will be on their guard against ink pellets and flying rubber bands in theatreland today, when all 920 boys, plus teachers, parents and friends of Loughborough Grammar School scrum in for a West End show. In



what is believed to be the biggest block-booking for a Cameron Mackintosh production, Loughborough has taken all 1,500 seats of the Palace Theatre for the matinee performance of *Les Misérables*.

The outing is part of the school's quinquennial celebrations, explains the school bursar, Philip Feather. "Les Mis may seem a slightly strange choice of show for a celebration but it's supposed to be very good. I expect the most interesting part of the day will be when 25 coaches try to leave the West End in the rush hour."

● Just as singers were about to burst forth in London's Banqueting House at a dinner hosted by the Historic Royal Palaces on Tuesday night, they were cut short by a piercing "Beeep! Beeep!" Angry eyes swivelled towards the culprit

and caught David Mellor sneaking from the room, fiddling with his bleeper and leaving his paramour, Lady Cobham, rigid with embarrassment.

Good sign

JOHN MAJOR's love of Anthony Trollope is now set in stone. The Prime Minister has agreed to be named vice-president of the Trollope Society, which celebrated the news in London last night at its annual dinner.

The society's founder, John Lettis, is delighted but insists that Major will have no formal duties. "By a

DAD, THIS IS NIGEL, HE'S GOT AN ACCOUNT WITH THE HALIFAX



very charming coincidence, however, his acceptance letter from Downing Street was signed by his private secretary, a Miss Warburton," he says. "Well, the private secretary to the Prime Minister in Anthony Trollope's book *The Prime Minister* was a Mr Warburton. I wonder if Mr Major chose someone with the same name deliberately."

● Douglas Hurd stoutly resists whining about the BBC in the manner of his ministerial colleagues. Indeed at his mega-conference yesterday on Britain and the World, our Foreign Secretary enthused: "The BBC is the most recognised brand name in the world — after Coca-Cola."

Pecking order

AUDITIONS are soon to be held for the top job at the Tower of London. Only those with the right dark good looks and winning personality need apply. The Yeoman Raven Master of the Tower, David Cope, is scouring the country for ravens to replace two birds deemed too vicious for life at the tower.

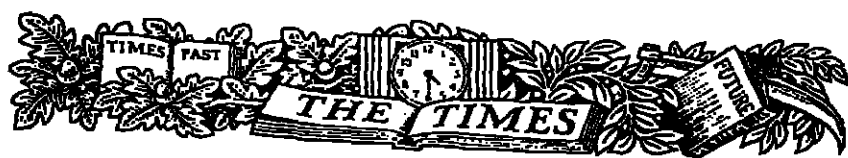
The brace of offenders, which all but pecked the life out of their six peers, have been locked up in a corner of the tower. They will be re-



Dark, handsome couple sought

tired to a sanctuary in Wales when their replacements are found and Cope is pinning his hope on a trip to the Outer Hebrides, where ravens are awaiting his perusal. "Recently the birds have come from Wales," he says. "But in 1946 the Duke of Sutherland gave us three birds from Scotland and I thought that it would be appropriate to have a change of blood."

P-H-S



BRITAIN'S PLACE

Good questions were asked yesterday: answers take longer

Asking the Royal Institute for International Affairs to invite 700 people to discuss Britain's place in the world was always a risk. Nothing immediately tangible was ever going to come from it — apart from the all too patent moments of humour. Nonetheless the Government took the risk: it opened the management of British foreign policy for a day and deserves rewards for doing so.

Strategic concerns were outlined yesterday which need sustained attention and a wider public airing. What reliance can we place in future on the Pax Americana? Can the European Union bring stability to a continent from which communism has fallen? Or will Europe fall victim to sluggish growth, severe unemployment, over-regulation and loss of political confidence? Twenty years from now will Europe be dominated by the dynamic economies of Asia in every field bar the study of its own history?

"Britain in the World" is a theme which attracts easy gibes about post-imperial nostalgia, the avoidance of the European perspective that is so often said to be the only reality. Yet, as yesterday's discussions showed, it is not nostalgic to be sceptical of Europe's drift to bureaucratic union. British foreign policy must not be trapped in the narrow grooves which Maastricht has carved. As a country which exports more per head than Japan, Britain continues to have a vital interest in the rule of law in the wider world — and thus in preserving what Hobbes called "the common power to keep men in awe". Its permanent membership of the UN Security Council is not an anachronism: it accurately reflects the respect in which British diplomatic skills and the professionalism of its Armed Forces are held.

Churchill's "terrible century", as Mr Major said yesterday, has ended "sooner and more suddenly than anyone foresaw". But many Western walls have developed fissures since the Berlin Wall between East and West came down. The mishandling of the war in Bosnia has weakened both the United Nations and Nato. In America, as Henry Kissinger said yesterday, "internationalism is no longer identified with European struggles".

This ought to call into play a British asset identified by Dr Kissinger: its skill in managing "the transition from power to influence" without losing the historic tradition of a global foreign policy. In his view, the transatlantic dialogue which characterised the 1940s needs to be revived in order to smooth the transition to the post-Cold War world — not in Britain, but America. His country, he said, has no strategic plan for dealing with a world without an ideological enemy, or practice in playing a field in which there are half a dozen players. A policy based on hegemony is neither feasible, nor acceptable to the American public, but there is also a passionate national aversion to balance-of-power politics, the game of reasonable equilibrium on which the future is likely to be based. Should the Europeans make the cardinal error of seeing the world in terms of "European" and "American" interests, he foresees "a continuation of the Western civil war that started in 1914".

This sobering threat has to be absorbed and acted on. However sour British relations with Washington are at present, Douglas Hurd was right to emphasise the solidity and multidimensional character of its contacts with the American Establishment. Britain has always seen itself as a European power reaching out from Europe. Britain has exceptionally wide international contacts, which it is better placed to exploit now that colonial resentments — and Britain's spasms of post-colonial guilt — recede into history. But Britain should not forget that Asia is also a strategically unstable zone. Looking East demands at least equally careful attention to the transatlantic dimension.

Above all, the business of projecting and defending Britain's national interests need not and should not be hostage to arguments about the potential value of a common European foreign and security policy, which may never acquire any substance. There is nothing nostalgic — still less escapist — about an effort to push debate in Britain out of a defensive mode in which Brussels is the centre of all attention.

WISE COUNCIL

Look inside local government and search for the best

John Major's campaign to improve public services under the banner of the Citizen's Charter has been one of his Government's most considerable and least appreciated achievements. The publication today of the Audit Commission's local authority performance indicators is another welcome example of commitment to transparency in public administration and the fruits which this policy may eventually bear.

The tables, which cover the services provided by more than 450 councils, offer the citizen a statistical map of the modern welfare state. Education provision in Tower Hamlets may be compared with services in Humberston. Council rents in Hackney can be judged against those in Warwick. As the commission gives warning, these figures need careful interpretation. High spending is not the same as wise spending. The needs of a sparsely populated rural area are not the same as those of an inner-city borough. A local authority with a history of weak infrastructure cannot be judged on the same terms as one that has inherited the opposite.

Yet these caveats should not obscure the clear merits of the commission's new venture. As the Banham Commission has demonstrated, the sheer variety of local provision is one of the key features of public administration in this country. Taxpayers have a right to survey this variety and to ask why the services they subsidise and benefit from are so much more — or less — efficiently provided in a neighbouring local authority. Why, it will be asked, do some town halls spend more on their secondary school pupils than others? Why do some councils find it so difficult to pay student grants on time? Why

do some have such a high proportion of citizens over 75 in residential care?

One effect of the new transparency will be to disturb some jaded stereotypes. Lambeth, for all its noisy political correctness, appears to be the only council in England and Wales that does not know how many disabled citizens it should be serving. Liverpool, in contrast, emerges as one of the more effective urban authorities in some areas of provision. Nearly all of its pupils with special needs, for example, have passed through the bureaucracy within six months, compared with fewer than 10 per cent in some areas.

Comparison of this kind will also encourage attention to best practice. Wise councillors will seek closer liaison with local organisations promoting the interests of people with disabilities and other voluntary organisations. They will ask if anything could be done to reduce the considerable disparities between council rents in England and Wales. They will also look hard at the targets they set themselves. Some town halls, for instance, aim to deliver a bath to a home in two weeks; others within three months. Some hope to answer the telephone in ten seconds or less; others pay attention to the actual helpfulness of their responses to letters and telephone calls. As experience is pooled, so costs will be driven down. Lessons learnt in one borough will not necessarily be easy to export to a county hundreds of miles away. But in many cases, they will be. The more accessible that information about local government becomes, the better the services provided to ordinary people should become. The Prime Minister deserves credit for this quiet achievement.

READ THE KORAN

A measured message from the Bishop of Rochester

Anarchy in Algeria, blasphemy in Pakistan, and farwas against Salman Rushdie all conspire to widen further the gulf which exists between the West and the Islamic world. Yet a timely book by the Bishop of Rochester, published today, argues that this state of affairs need not persist for ever.

In his *Mission and Dialogue*, the Right Rev Michael Nazir-Ali states that "like Christianity, Islam has a rich and varied theological tradition". He argues for the development in Islamic theology and exegesis of a greater responsiveness to change. Citing such reformers as Waliullah and Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, the bishop argues that while the tenets of Islamic jurisprudence "need always to be promoted", this need not be "in ways identical with those of nomadic society in the 7th century". Believers of Islam must be enabled to "engage with contemporary life from the perspective of their faith", just as the evolution of Christianity has made it possible for the faithful to engage with their own scriptures.

Bishop Nazir-Ali hails from a Muslim background in Pakistan, and was previously the Bishop of Raiwind in Punjab. He is better placed than most to understand the difficulties faced by Christian minorities in a predominantly Muslim society, illustrated so starkly by the torment of Salamat Masih,

the teenager charged with blasphemy against Islam last month in Lahore. Equally, he is in a prime position to fathom the dilemma of Muslims who live as a minority in Western Christian societies. Although it is important that his book be read by theologians in Islamic societies, it is towards the latter group that his ideas are most powerfully directed.

In exhorting Muslims and their theologians to rise to the challenge of modernity, the bishop suggests that an intellectual culture needs to be encouraged within Islam "which will be critical in its approach to the sources of the faith". Questions will arise inevitably about the relation of Muslims to Christians and Jews — the other *Ahl al-Kitab*, or People of the Book. This, in the Bishop's own words, "should lead also to an interest in the literary background to the Koran" and its affiliation to the the Judeo-Christian scriptures.

International society needs a dialogue of reconciliation today between Western and Islamic thinkers as urgently as it once needed harmony between Christians and Jews. Such a development, if it were to promote a better understanding between Muslim and Christian societies, would enhance the spirit and temper of Islam itself as well as act as a force for global good.

Canada's fishing dispute with Spain

From Mrs John Speller

Sir, I write as a Canadian and also as a British citizen. I am the proud holder of two passports.

The Canadian Government's views in the fishing dispute with Spain seem quite straightforward and clear, and also seem to represent the interests and concerns of its citizens. As a Canadian, I have no reservations.

The British view, too, judged by public opinion, seems very clear and generally supportive. As a British citizen, I am quite content.

I wish I felt the same about the pious and pompous statements emanating from EU "spokespersons" who also supposedly speak on my behalf.

Yours faithfully,
MARILLA SPELLER,
Corham House, Sandpit Lane,
Bedlow, Buckinghamshire,
March 29.

From Señor Alfonso Torrents
dels PRATS

Sir, The praise bestowed by you on Newfoundlanders in your leader of March 28, "Brave New World", seems to rely solely on sentiment: over 90 per cent of them are of British descent.

International fishing rights are dismissed as "niceties" and Brussels, of course, is always wrong because of its "bloated [sic] we forget this standing epithet" bureaucracy. It seems a bit contradictory to read in the same issue of your paper that British inspectors who boarded the Spanish trawler *Estai*, seized on March 9, "found no evidence of rule-breaking".

Yours sincerely,
ALFONSO TORRENTS DELS PRATS,
162 Coleherne Court,
Old Brompton Road, SW5,
March 28.

From Mr Roger R. Cook

Sir, During the current fishing dispute, much has been written about Britain's links, and debt, to Canada. Europe's debt, however, seems forgotten. In two European wars this century Canadians died to ensure a fair and democratic Europe — not least at Vimy Ridge and Dieppe. Canada has also done far more than its share in UN peacekeeping operations around the world.

Spain's historical contribution is far less positive. May I suggest that in the present dispute it is not just Britain which is on the wrong side, but any European who values freedom and respects those who fought, and died, to preserve it.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER R. COOK,
St Georges, High Street,
Barkway, Hertfordshire.

From Mr A. N. Allott

Sir, For the Spanish to claim their "rights" to plunder and exhaust yet another fishing ground, and for the European Union to characterise the Canadians' attempt to stop them as "piracy", is cynical and hypocritical in the first case, and pathetically naive in the second.

On a visit to Namibia earlier this month I was told by a senior overseas aid worker that Spanish vessels, in total breach of that country's exclusive rights, had been systematically fishing its coastal waters. Namibia, given the length of its coastline and its lack of any patrol craft, was unable to prevent this. The situation was cured by the Canadian Government's enlightened generosity in donating patrol vessels and a helicopter to Namibia. I was told that one Spanish vessel illegally fishing had already been detained by the Namibian authorities.

The sooner international law recognises a duty on every state to protect international fishing resources, wherever located, the better. These are part of the common heritage of mankind. Once lost, they will be gone for ever.

Yours faithfully,
A. N. ALLOTT,
Sorbok Mill, Bodicote,
Banbury, Oxfordshire.

From Professor M. N. Montgomery

Sir, May I suggest some fundamental points concerning the current dispute that have been inadequately addressed by the UK media?

1. Although now a constituent member of the North American Free Trade Association, Canada remains the major and conspicuously most loyal of all Commonwealth countries and deserves diplomatic support irrespective of competitive European priorities.
2. The Canadian case is scarcely different from the issue of the "Irish box" in terms of defence against predators who understand little and care less for problems of non-renewable natural resources.

3. Canadian Fisheries Minister, Brian Tobin, is very aware historically of how Newfoundland has been depleted economically by the transnational plundering of primary resource products for added-value processing and sale elsewhere. This is an equally neglected issue in both fisheries and energy areas in the UK.

HMG could do well to learn from the belated conversion of Ottawa.

Yours,
MALCOLM MONTGOMERY,
139 Broomhill Road, Aberdeen.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Taking issue with allegations of bias against the BBC

From the Archdeacon of York

Sir, Anyone who dips a toe into public controversy, whether political, ecclesiastical or whatever, must expect to be challenged and be ready to defend their position. BBC programmes such as *Radio 4's Today* and television's *Newsnight* make precisely that challenge and do it well. I believe the present ministerial attack, in particular on John Humphrys, one of the *Today* presenters (report, March 27: Woodrow Wyatt, March 28), to be without justification.

On several occasions I have been interviewed, sometimes fiercely and probably, by both Jeremy Paxman, of *Newsnight*, and John Humphrys, and have always welcomed their style and admired their professionalism. Controversial views deserve to be contested in this way. The stronger the attack the better I like it, for it forces me to examine my views and defend (if I can) the position I have taken.

Moreover, as a regular contributor to *Thought for the Day*, I have had a greater opportunity than most listeners to observe John Humphrys and his colleagues in action. I am left wondering whether those who complain have found themselves attempting to defend what proved under questioning to be indefensible.

Yours etc,
GEORGE AUSTIN,
7 Lang Road,
Bishopthorpe, York,
March 27.

From Mr Ian Curteis

Sir, "While it is right that the accepted orthodoxies should be challenged, equally it is essential that the established view should be fully and clearly put" — the 1977 Annon Committee re-

port on the Future of Broadcasting, p.29.

Were John Humphrys, Jeremy Paxman and others to observe both sides of this simple formula when interviewing Ministers, instead of just one, we would respect their professionalism somewhat more than we do at present.

Yours truly,
IAN CURTEIS,
The Mill House, Coln St Aldwyns,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire,
March 28.

From the General Secretary
of the TUC

Sir, I was John Humphrys's first interviewee at an education rally and lobby of Parliament on March 21 to protest against education cuts. After a brief three-minute speech to the rally, I was pressed hard by Mr Humphrys along the following lines: "How would you propose we pay for better education standards?", and "If the TUC would make education a priority for increased public spending, what areas would be downgraded in order to free the extra money?"

These were certainly not the soft, slow, full tosses that Jonathan Aitken seems to crave. Mr Humphrys was true to himself and the best traditions of the BBC.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN MONKS,
General Secretary,
Trades Union Congress,
Congress House,
Great Russell Street, WC1,
March 28.

From Mr David Dimbleby and
Mr Jonathan Dimbleby

Sir, Woodrow Wyatt's claim that when Richard Dimbleby was the presenter

of BBC's *Panorama* and he was a member of the reporting team "every-one knew Richard was a Tory" is unconvincing. As far as we know, Richard Dimbleby never told anyone how he voted.

Neither of us knew, none of his friends knew, none of his colleagues has ever claimed to know. It seems unlikely that he would have confided only in Lord Wyatt.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID DIMBLEBY,
JONATHAN DIMBLEBY,
14 King Street, Richmond, Surrey,
March 28.

From Miss Elizabeth Stockwell

Sir, British Rail were baffled by "the wrong sort of snow" and it now appears that the Tories are equally flummoxed by "the wrong sort of questions".

Is there a possibility that the British Government may be being run by the wrong sort of politician?

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH STOCKWELL,
Bourn House, South Knighiton,
Newton Abbot, Devon.

From Sir David Nicholas

Sir, When I first edited election coverage for ITN in the 1960s, I was given the following advice by a veteran political reporter: "Remember David", he said, "the political party which loses the election goes down clutching the testicles of television in its hand".

Yours sincerely,
DAVID NICHOLAS,
(Chairman, Independent Television
News, 1989-91),
Lodge Stables,
28 Kidbrooke Park Road, SE3.

Need for a directive from Brussels on hallmarking

From the Chief Executive, National
Association of Goldsmiths, and the
Chief Executive, British Jewellers'
Association

Sir, Your report (March 28) on the latest pressure from Europe for a new standard for precious metals does not point out that the whole jewellery industry in the UK — manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers — is in disagreement with the Assay Offices and has been urging upon HM Government for some time the need for an EU hallmarking directive in the interests of consumer protection.

The UK consumer has been at risk since September 1994, when the European Court of Justice gave its "Houtwipper" judgment, which is in conflict with the UK 1973 Hallmarking Act. Amongst other things, the Houtwipper judgment ruled that "equivalent" hallmarks from any member state (equivalence to be decided by the national courts) can now be legally sold in the UK.

This probably means that precious metal articles hallmarked in France, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, The Netherlands, Austria, Finland, Sweden (and possibly Belgium and Denmark as well) can be legally sold in the UK in defiance of the 1973 Act — some of them with lower purity levels not recognised by the Act.

There is no single reference book listing all the "equivalent" hallmarks, and rulings from the British courts will only be revealed over a long

period. One needs to refer to a number of books, some difficult to obtain or out of print, to try to establish what may be legally sold. This highly confusing situation offers an open invitation to the possibility of fraud, which might well bring the whole jewellery trade into disrepute.

The UK jewellery retailer is being placed in an impossible position, as are UK consumers and the UK regulatory authorities.

That is why we urgently need a directive. It would be extremely sad if special pleading by the Assay Offices is allowed to perpetuate for longer than necessary the present position.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SANDERSON,
Chief Executive,
National Association of Goldsmiths,
DAVID GEORGE,
Chief Executive,
British Jewellers' Association,
c/o 78a Luke Street, EC2,
March 28.

From Mr Eric S. Poyser

Sir, I write as a member of the British Hallmarking Council since its inception in 1974, and the president of the Harmonisation Commission of the Confédération Internationale de la Bijouterie, Joaillerie et Orfèvrerie (CIBJO), the international jewellery association.

The world's jewellery industry needs a clear, safe and well regulated framework, and the UK industry

worked relentlessly to ensure the passing of the Hallmarking Act at a time when the British hallmark was in jeopardy because of the feeling that the Trade Descriptions Act was sufficient.

Since that time, cases in the European Court of Justice, culminating in *Houtwipper*, have led to confusion in the UK and other member states, and CIBJO has therefore pressed the European Union to agree a directive to give the industry a clear law.

In recent European negotiations the UK has been extremely successful in retaining all the finenesses for gold, 9ct, 14ct, 18ct and 22ct, which we use, together with sterling silver and our fineness for platinum. In addition, all the important features of the British hallmark have been retained.

The directive, to be discussed in Brussels on Thursday, does allow other forms of marking, but these marks are controlled. The consumer will be better protected with a directive than without one. This directive will still allow consumers the freedom to choose articles bearing the British hallmark, and the opportunity to co-operate with this directive should be grasped with both hands. It is more favourable to the UK than to any other member state.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC S. POYSER,
Old Vicarage,
Woodborough,
Nottingham,
March 28.

Doorstep delivery

From Mr Simon Dobbs

Sir, The problem most people have with doorstep milk deliveries (letters, March 29) is not the price (they would gladly pay extra for the service) but the fact that they occur after everyone has left home, and the milk sits on the doorstep all day long. Modern production methods mean that milk will last a week if kept in a refrigerator, so delivery time could be in the early evening. Why not combine it with the evening paper and fresh bread?

Yours,
S. T. DOBBS,
3 Warwick Close,
Market Harborough, Leicestershire.

Water efficiency

From the Chairman of the Water
Services Association

Sir, Last Monday's BBC *Panorama* (report, March 27: Dr Jack Cunningham's letter, March 29) completely ignored benefits that the water industry has brought to the economy, environment and to the health of future generations.

It said nothing about the £15 billion that have been invested in capital projects for water and for sewerage over the last five years. Nor of the massive continuing investment planned for the next decade. The quality of drinking water is now higher than ever before and is one of the highest in Europe. This is endorsed by the *Drinking Water Inspectorate*.

The quality of our rivers has improved significantly. At least 95 per cent of sewage treatment works now meet the performance standards laid down by the National Rivers Authority, compared with 83 per cent in 1988.

Overall, thanks to greater efficiency by the ten water and sewerage companies, on whose behalf I write, customers' bills will rise less over the coming five years than during the past five years.

Practical medicine

From Mr John M. Mutch

Sir, Mr Ronald Boxall's light-hearted reaction (letter, March 27) to Dr Stuttaford's accessible article on medical matters might suggest that in essence they are for entertainment rather than education. Dr Stuttaford knows, from a letter of profound thanks I sent him last year, that one of his articles enabled me to recover health and return to work in a few weeks. I can only say from my own experience that self-diagnosis is better than no diagnosis.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN M. MUTCH,
3 Pitch Pond Close, Knotty Green,
Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.

Independent schools

From the Headmaster of
Eastbourne College

Sir, On the same day your Education Editor wrote on "single-sex schooling at risk" within the independent sector (report, March 29), Eastbourne College announced that it too, in response to parental wishes, is to become fully co-educational from September 1996.

Parents want a school environment for their sons and daughters which mirrors a world where both sexes compete equally. Almost all our feeder schools are co-educational and parents, having seen successful integration at the prep school level, increasingly want it to continue throughout their children's time at a senior school.

Far from "altering", the trend to co-education within independent boarding schools is gathering momentum in line with changing parental attitudes and expectations, and the convenience of having all the children in the family educated in the same place.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES BUSH,
Headmaster's House,
Old Wish Road,
The College,
Eastbourne, East Sussex,
March 23.

Too hot to handle

From Mrs Hazel Rice

Sir, While on holiday in one of the more remote regions of Wales earlier this month I had some difficulty in finding a copy of *The Times*.

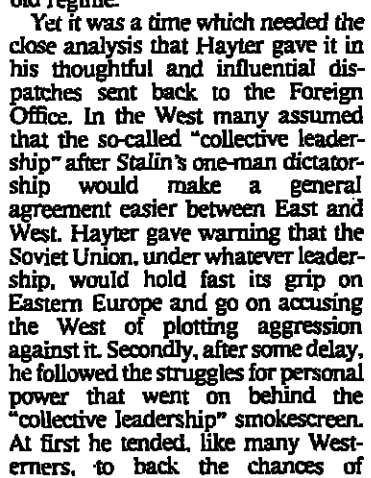
I was told that this was due to distribution difficulties "caused by global warming". In view of the prevailing weather conditions this seemed unlikely.

Yours sincerely,
HAZEL RICE,
25 Burford Gardens,
Palmer's Green, N13,
March 26.

Sports letters, page 41

SIR WILLIAM HAYTER

In Paris he and his wife greatly distinguished themselves. It was, therefore, not altogether unexpected that in 1953 he should have been



Hayter himself sent to London the draft of a firm and dignified reply which the British Government substantially accepted.

Hayter himself wrote in his autobiography that 15 years later, he still felt "an amateur in Oxford", as one who had "no share in, and no direct experience of, the two main academic activities, teaching, and research". To the extent that this was true (and he

Beyond his volume of memoirs, *A Double Life*, he published several wise, economically worded books on Russia and international relations: *The Diplomacy of The Great Powers* (1961), *The Kremlin and the Embassy* (1966), *Russia and The World* (1970), and others on *William of Wykeham*, *Patron of the Arts* (1970) and his delightful work *Spooner* (1977) on the originator of "Spoonerisms".

William Hayter is survived by his wife Iris, nee Hoare, whom he married in 1938, and by their daughter.

His belief in Australia and

But dearest to him of all was

He is survived by his wife Trudy and two sons and one daughter.

The Countess of Feversham by Raoul Millais

She was born Anne Dorothy Wood, the daughter and eldest child of the 1st Earl of Halifax, Viceroy of India from 1926 to 1931. Her mother was Lady

That year Feversham was appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture. He resigned the post three years later in order to concentrate on his estate and business interests but the war interrupted his plans and, accompanied by

She found she enjoyed administration and she continued her association with the WRVS on a national level afterwards, later under the chairmanship of Lady Pike. For this, she was appointed MBE in 1950 and advanced to

Her husband was a progressive farmer and landlord at his estates around Helmsley. Lady Feversham supported him in all his experiments and projects but she was more personally enthusiastic about such hobbies

His 21 years at Reading followed an interesting early career. He left school at an early age, served in the Royal Navy during the Second World War and completed one of the postwar emergency teacher training schemes. He taught in a number of secondary schools in Northumberland and studied for a part-time honours degree in English at London University. The fact that he obtained a first was, no doubt, one reason why he was offered a post teaching English at Dulwich College, where he subsequently became chief English master.

He is survived by his wife Trudy and two sons and one daughter.

[illegible]

After a good start the leaders were Thomond II., Castle Irwell, Golden Miller, and Emancipator. There were casualties even at the first fence, and they continued throughout the first round until, when the field came on to the

Reynoldstown was now leading from Thomond II., with Blue Prince and Castle Irwell not far behind. Castle Irwell, going very well, vanished from the race at the Canal Turn.

At the beginning of the run-in it seemed for a moment that Thorndy II would win the race for Mr. Whitney, but, as last year, his stamina gave out when the race seemed to be over. Parvin with his Prince along as only a great natural horseman can do and threatened danger, but Reynoldstown and his young rider were not beaten and Major Furlong's gallant horse drew away to win by three lengths with the weary Thorndy II, ninth place.



ANATOLE KALETSKY 27

Britain's real place in the world



BOOKS 36, 37

Cyril Connolly, a life not quite fulfilled



SPORT 38-44

McColgan cautious after rival pulls out of marathon

GEOFF BROWN AT THE CINEMA Arts 33-35

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY MARCH 30 1995

Shell to cut 1,200 jobs in London and The Hague

By CARL MORTIMER

SHELL, the Anglo-Dutch oil company, announced radical changes in the management of the company yesterday with the loss of 1,200 jobs from Shell's joint head offices in London and The Hague. In a briefing to staff in London yesterday, Cor Herkströter, chairman of Shell's committee of managing directors, said conditions in the oil

industry made changes necessary. "We see the business conditions of today, with flat margins and low oil prices, continuing into the future," Mr Herkströter cautioned staff against complacency after Shell's record 1994 profits of £4 billion. "Our performance is less than satisfactory," he said. "They should remember that we also have an extremely high level of capital employed and that the underlying

return on capital is modest." Shell is scrapping its organisational matrix, a complex system of checks and balances, set up 30 years ago to manage decision-making in a decentralised international company. Instead, five business committees will have shareholder responsibility for running the company, abolishing the old structure which had three lines of command, based on sectors, functions and

regions. The new business committees will be based on Shell's five business areas: exploration and production, chemicals, gas and coal and oil products, which comprises refining and marketing. Shell launched a review of its group structure six months ago with the help of McKinsey, the management consultants. Mr Herkströter described the old system as "designed for a different era, for a different world."

Duplication and confusion of roles had built up in the old structure, he explained, and the operating companies found support and guidance from Shell's head office service companies was ineffective or inefficient, and too costly. About 4,000 work in the service companies, but Mr Herkströter would not say which areas would suffer most, saying that increased efficiency would lead to an overall reduction of about 30 per cent. Analysts described the news as broadly favourable, although some were hoping for more drastic cuts. Shell's head office costs about £625 million a year and some questioned whether a 30 per cent reduction would give Shell much scope for profit improvement.

Pennington, page 25

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3142.3	(+14.0)
Yield	4.35%	
FT-SE A All share	1538.43	(+5.43)
Nikkei	16480.73	(-221.00)
Dow Jones	4195.04	(+43.23)*
S&P Composite	507.53	(+3.73)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	6 1/4%	(0%+)
Long Bond	10 3/4%	(102 1/2%)
Yield	7.38%	(7.39%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	6 1/4%	(0%+)
Libor long gilt	10 3/4%	(102 1/2%)

STERLING

New York	1.6085*	(1.6153)
London	1.6085	(1.6057)
DM	2.2227	(2.2431)
FF	7.5520	(7.5370)
Sfr	1.4324	(1.4222)
Yen	141.57	(143.15)
2 Index	66.2	(65.4)

DOLLAR

London	1.3837*	(1.3890)
DM	4.8765*	(4.8975)
Sfr	1.1410*	(1.1462)
Yen	88.29*	(88.58)
2 Index	66.2	(65.4)

TOKYO CLOSING

Yen	117.20	(117.10)
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BRITISH SOY OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun)	\$17.20	(\$17.10)
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LONDON CLOSING

3-mth interbank	\$883.35	(\$882.35)
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POOLED RESOURCES

Littlewoods, which announced the creation of 2,000 jobs in its retail divisions yesterday, is believed to have held informal talks with Vernons about closer links between their football pools operations. The company faces a steady decline in its market because of competition from the National Lottery. Page 24

VICIOUS CIRCLE

An abrupt downturn in construction orders for the three months to end January has prompted caution over prospects for the second half of 1995 from Blue Circle Industries, Britain's biggest cement producer, in spite of higher 1994 volumes. Page 25

Pearson adds Neighbours to TV stable

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE conglomerate that owns the *Financial Times* and half of the Lazard Brothers merchant bank is buying the Australian television producer behind *Neighbours*, Australia's longest-running TV series and probably its best-known export.

Pearson, currently building a stable of television interests that includes Thames TV, the former London weekday broadcaster, is paying US\$270 million (£175 million) for Grundy, now 71. Grundy's *Neighbours* soap opera launched the singing careers of Kylie Minogue and Jason Donovan.

The deal surprised the stock market because Pearson had released full-year figures on Monday that gave no hint of the purchase. Grundy had planned a New York stock market flotation at about the price being paid and is thought to have been up for sale for some time, with one other British television company believed to have turned it down.

Grundy has a daunting 4,000-plus hours of drama and 1,000 hours of game shows in its vaults and a reputation for cost-effective

production of both. Pearson hopes to sell these and further output by the company through the network that the group's television division has been establishing over the past couple of years. These include a global alliance in satellite television put in place with the BBC and TVB, the Hong Kong broadcaster, in which Pearson has a 10 per cent stake.

Grundy's output is well-tailored to cater for emerging television markets in Asia, which are hungry for game show and soap opera formats that can be adapted in accordance with local taste by using local actors or front men. The company's productions on British screens include *How Do They Do That?* and *Celebrity Squares*.

The Grundy deal is the first fruits from the appointment this year of Greg Dyke, who left London Weekend Television after its takeover by Granada last year. Before that, he was credited with rescuing the then-ailing TV-am by the importation of Roland Rat.

Reg Grundy started his company in 1958 after a career as presenter, and then producer, of a variety of game shows, his first television job being on the Australian version of *Wheel of Fortune*. Mr Grundy will receive almost \$240 million under the Pearson deal. He said: "Clearly this has been one of the most important decisions of my life. There are benefits in remaining an independent company, but, in the current fast-changing world of global media, the advantages of teaming up with a company the size and scope of Pearson are self-evident." Mr Grundy is to continue as a consultant.

Mr Dyke said: "[Grundy has] a legendary reputation for efficient financial management of its productions in its different markets, and I see the acquisition as a vital ingredient in our overall strategy."

Pearson shares fell by 10p, to 553p, on the news. The company is paying 17 times historic earnings and expects the purchase to improve earnings per share in 1995.

However, there was some scepticism in the market over Mr Grundy's future role. "The price doesn't look outrageous," one analyst said, "provided they can keep the act going without him."



Tempus, page 26

Greg Dyke, Roland Rat's former boss, has bought *Neighbours* for Pearson's TV arm

Losses at QMH deepen

By PATRICIA TEHAN

LOSSES at Queens Moat Houses, the debt-laden hotels group, which said last week it had finally agreed a £1.3 billion debt restructuring with its 74 banks, increased last year from £46.4 million in 1993 to £95.2 million.

The company's shares, which were suspended at 47p two years ago, will resume trading in May after an extraordinary meeting of shareholders on April 28, and a request for High Court approval of a scheme of arrangement on May 17.

After a debt-for-equity swap with the company's bankers as part of the restructuring, shareholders will be left with 40 per cent of the total share capital of the group.

Queens Moat will post details of the listing particulars and an offer from its banks to sell their shares for 8.6p each tomorrow. However, when trading resumes, the price is expected to be lower than 8.6p. There will also be a 1-for-10 share reconstruction, with new shares at 8.6p. After the debt restructuring, Queens Moat is left with £700 million debts which it must begin servicing in full from January 1997. Most of the debt is fixed-interest debt, with an interest burden of £65 million for Queens Moat.

The losses for the year to January 1 were hit by exceptional, including £23.4 million from the depreciation of sterling on the translation of foreign currency borrowings.

Pennington, page 25

Reed board pays itself £10.5m

By GEORGE SIVELL

DIRECTORS of Reed Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch publishing group, were paid a total of £10.5 million during 1994, a rise of 31.4 per cent on the £8 million for 1993.

The rewards were shared by 19 directors, 11 executive and eight non-executive, but were swollen by the £1.25 million paid in compensation to Peter Davis, who resigned as chairman in June.

Mr Davis last week became the new chief executive of the Prudential, Britain's biggest life insurer, which complained to a House of Commons Select Committee this week over the pay package that was awarded to Cedric Brown as the chief executive at British Gas.

The Reed annual report reveals that Mr Davis waived about one-third of his entitlement under his three-year service agreement.

The highest-paid director at Reed Elsevier was Peter Vinken, the chairman, who joined the £1 million a year club with a rise of 11.1 per cent to £1,037 million during 1994. Loek van Vollenhoven, deputy chairman, enjoyed a 13 per cent rise to £965,404. Reed also discloses individual fees for non-executive directors. Eight non-executive directors shared fees of £289,000, an average of £36,125. Head and shoulders above the rest was Sir Christopher Lewinton, chairman of the remuneration committee, who drew fees of £76,751 during 1994, a rise on 1993's £73,502.

Reed said Sir Christopher's fees reflected consultancy work on the Reed Elsevier board re-organisation.

Building society sues Fimbra for libel

By SARA MCCONNELL

THE West Bromwich Building Society is suing the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra) for libel over allegations made by the regulator in a draft report on the West Bromwich's involvement in sales of home-income plans.

A writ was issued yesterday against Fimbra and Robert Guest, the author of the report. Mr Guest was Fimbra's senior legal officer when the report was drafted in 1994.

The West Bromwich's action comes after distribution of the draft to the media and members of the public by Mike O'Brien, MP for Warwickshire North, when the building society appeared at a hearing of the Treasury Select Committee on Monday.

But the Securities and Investments Board (SIB) is refusing to release a subsequent version of the report, which includes different and additional material.

Andrew Large, SIB chairman, yesterday came under sharp attack from members of the Treasury Select Committee when he told Sir Thomas Arnold, committee chairman, that SIB was never intending to publish a final report on the affair. The draft report, which no one, including the West Bromwich, had been allowed to see until this week, alleges that West Bromwich and Fisher Prew Smith worked closely together to market an "over ambitious" home-income plan called the Rainbow Equity Release Scheme to elderly homeowners.

Under the plan, people mortgaged part of their homes with the West Bromwich then invested the resulting lump sum through Fisher Prew Smith, a Fimbra-registered independent financial adviser. Many similar plans were being sold in the late 1980s.

But falling house prices and stock markets and rising interest rates have since pushed many elderly people into debt. Fimbra's report says that "West Bromwich ought to bear its fair share of the financial responsibility" for the losses of investors by reducing interest rates on home-income plan mortgages and making a "substantial" payment to the Investors Compensation Scheme. The scheme has already paid out £12 million to Fisher Prew Smith home-income plan victims. John Baker, chairman of the West Bromwich, described the draft report as an ill advised.

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RJB set to cash in as coal prices soar

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT



Edge: profits up

INTERNATIONAL coal prices have begun to rise strongly for the first time in 15 years as new power stations in South-East Asia come on stream, pushing up demand.

The upturn coincided with the sale of Britain's state coal industry to three private sector producers at the end of December. The McCloskey Coal Information Services market price for spot steam coal has surged 25 per cent, to \$43.94, during the past 12 months, and one recent international coking coal deal shows a 12 per cent rise, to \$49.30. Gerard McCloskey, head of MCIS, says that there is now a "real danger" that there will be insufficient coal to meet Far East demand.

RJB Mining, which bought British Coal's English deep mines and opencast sites, may now find it easier to displace imports, which last year accounted for 15.8 million tonnes of UK consumption, roughly a quarter of the total.

If RJB can achieve its goal of substituting seven million tonnes of English production for imported fuel, it will lift sales by about £250 million a year.

Richard Budge, chief executive of RJB, said that the upturn in prices brings the cost of coal delivered to UK ports to £1.25 per gigajoule, in line with forecasts for the market after 1998 that accompanied RJB's £400 million rights issue to finance the British Coal deal. Critics claimed the forecasts were over-optimistic.

In figures for the year to December 31, issued yesterday, RJB lifted its earnings

by 32 per cent, to £16.1 million, beating its forecast. A second interim dividend of 7.3p makes a 12.5p total payout, up 0.5p.

Mr Budge reported good progress in integrating the British Coal mines, which cost £315 million and came with contracts to supply 30 million tonnes of coal a year to National Power and PowerGen.

RJB now employs 9,165, including 7,300 miners, in its 22 deep mines and 18 opencast pits. Output is running at 36 million tonnes a year, and is rising as productivity improves. Ellington mine, in Northumberland, has been re-opened, and coaling began last week at the new £460 million Astford pit.

Under the plan, people mortgaged part of their homes with the West Bromwich then invested the resulting lump sum through Fisher Prew Smith, a Fimbra-registered independent financial adviser. Many similar plans were being sold in the late 1980s.

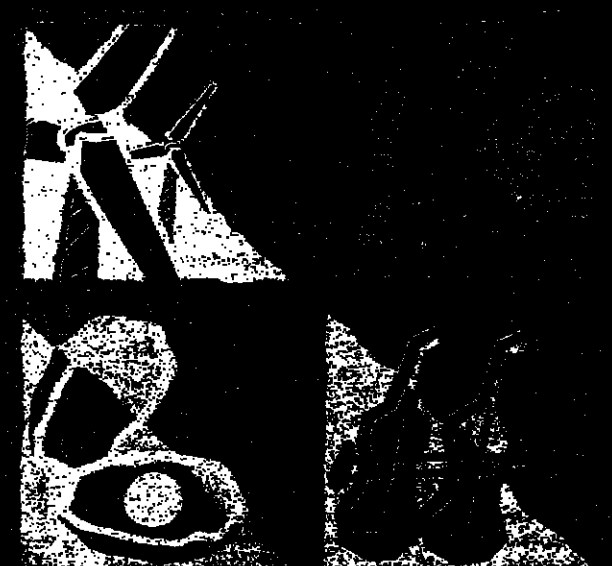
But falling house prices and stock markets and rising interest rates have since pushed many elderly people into debt. Fimbra's report says that "West Bromwich ought to bear its fair share of the financial responsibility" for the losses of investors by reducing interest rates on home-income plan mortgages and making a "substantial" payment to the Investors Compensation Scheme. The scheme has already paid out £12 million to Fisher Prew Smith home-income plan victims. John Baker, chairman of the West Bromwich, described the draft report as an ill advised.

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TRADE INDEMNITY

Employees 'are mis-sold free-standing AVCs'

By Sara McConnell

MEMBERS of occupational pension schemes who want to top up their contributions are being wrongly sold expensive free-standing plans although their companies are offering similar top-up facilities more cheaply, a leading firm of actuaries said yesterday.

An estimated million people make additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) on top of their contribution to an occupational pension scheme, particularly as they near retirement. Employers have to offer their employees an AVC scheme. Alternatively, employers are free to make their own arrangements through a free-standing

AVC (FSAVC) if they prefer. However, employees topping up with an FSAVC will pay the equivalent of one year's contributions in charges over 10 years, while those using their employer's scheme will have most of the costs paid for them by the employer.

Regulators are already investigating widespread mis-selling of personal pensions to members of occupational pension schemes. Evidence of further mis-selling of free-standing AVCs, which are similar in structure to personal pensions and sold by the same people, would further dent public confidence in pensions.

Steve Mingle, specialist in AVC arrange-

ments at Bacon & Woodrow, said: "There is no doubt that some free-standing AVCs are being mis-sold."

Several insurers that operate additional voluntary contribution schemes for companies have noticed large numbers of sales of free-standing AVCs to employees of the same companies. Mr Mingle added. The only difference between the schemes is that the employees are paying high charges, including commissions, for the free-standing AVCs.

Mr Mingle also said that trustees have a duty to review the performance of the provider of their in-house AVC. Employees can lose thousands of pounds in benefits if trustees of

their scheme choose a poor provider. Bacon & Woodrow's annual survey of group AVC schemes, published yesterday, shows that, over 10 years, an employee making AVCs to the Co-operative Insurance Society (CIS), the best performer would have got a return of 17 per cent a year, whereas London Life, the worst, returned just 11.1 per cent a year. However, the CIS contract is only for employees of the Co-operative movement.

The best-performing managed fund contract, from Fidelity, returned an average 13.5 per cent a year over the last five years, three times the return of Guardian, the worst performer, at 4.4 per cent a year.

MTM in chemical takeover

MTM, the chemicals company, is acquiring Solvit, a maker of chemical industrial products, for a maximum £9.15 million. Solvit made £977,000 profits before tax last year (£702,000), on turnover of £6.4 million. The acquisition continues MTM's reconstruction after it sold most of its businesses in June 1993.

Halfway rise for Adwest

Adwest Group, the industrial holding company with interests in automotive components and power systems, said the outlook continued to be encouraging, with good demand. In the half-year to the end of December Adwest increased taxable profits to £6.2 million (£3.93 million) from a £90 million turnover (£63 million), including a maiden contribution from acquisitions. The interim is lifted to 2.3p (2.1p), payable May 26. Since the end of the half-year Adwest has acquired Triple A Tube for £12.6 million, its first US automotive purchase.

Speedy Frost

Frost Group, the SAVE petrol retailer, has reached its 250-site target nationwide two years early. It is also planning to enter the dealer wholesaling market. Pre-tax profits for 1994 rose to £10.86 million (£7.65 million). A final of 3.2p makes 5.9p (4.9p).



David Jones, the chief executive of Next, where full year, pre-tax profits increased by 46 per cent to £107 million

Littlewoods in alliance talks with Vernons

By Martin Barrow

LITTLEWOODS, which announced the creation of 2,000 jobs in its retail divisions yesterday, is believed to have held informal talks with Vernons about closer links between their football pools operations.

The company, confronted with a steady decline in its market because of competition from the National Lottery, hopes that a television advertising campaign beginning next month — the first of its kind — will redress the balance. However, other options are being considered, including an alliance with Vernons, which is owned by Ladbroke Group.

Littlewoods and Vernons vie for the same market in football pools, with Littlewoods claim-

ing a 75 per cent share and Vernons about 20 per cent. Both companies are based in Liverpool and adopted new marketing strategies to counter the threat from the lottery.

Bill Huntley, managing director of Littlewoods, said: "We are always talking to Vernons. We are in the same town." However, when pressed on the prospect of concrete discussions with Vernons about a merger, Mr Huntley said: "There have been no formal discussions." Turnover at Littlewoods was currently about 10 per cent lower than before the lottery launch, he said.

Littlewoods expects to recruit up to 2,000 people, including 500 in its Mersey-

side heartland, as it expands its Index catalogue shopping chain and the Littlewoods department stores, opening new branches principally in the North West, Wales and Northern Ireland. However, the company continues to show a reluctance to expand in the South and South East, where it maintains a low profile, blaming continuing high rents and property costs.

The company, which last week parted company with chief executive Barry Dale, reported 1994 profits of £116 million before tax, compared with £117.2 million. Operating profits were reduced to £104.4 million from £118.2 million but there was an exceptional credit of £3.1 million (£3.4 million charge last time) and a rise in

investment income to £6.5 million from £2.4 million.

Retailing profits fell to £92.1 million from £99.5 million, although losses at Index, which competes head-on with the successful Argos chain, were cut to £5.8 million from £7.5 million. Pools and associated businesses rose to £27.6 million from £25 million, with the National Lottery denting fortunes in the final weeks of the year.

Despite the expansion of the company's other retailing interests, including the new warehouse clubs, home shopping continues to underpin its fortunes, lifting profits to £73.4 million last year from £69.2 million. Home shopping sales advanced to £1.08 billion from £1.04 billion previously.

Next rules out special dividend payments

By Susan Gilchrist

NEXT, the high street fashion retailer, yesterday ruled out the possibility of returning its growing cash pile to shareholders through either share buy-backs or special dividend payments.

Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, Next's chairman, dismissed City speculation on the matter as extraordinary. He said the group was comfortable with its cash position. "I don't think we have a dramatic surplus. I think we have got the balance about right."

The group boosted its cash balances by £32 million to £119 million last year. Lord Wolfson said that the money would be spent on expanding the store base and possibly making acquisitions.

Next, of which David Jones is chief executive, plans to open its first trial store in France, at Créteil, on the outskirts of Paris, in June. A further outlet is planned for the autumn. Lord Wolfson said that the format would be extensively tested before any further expansion. The group will decide whether to roll out its four trial stores in America later this year.

The group unveiled a 46 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £107.4 million, from £73.5 million, in the year to January 28. Like-for-like sales in the stores rose by 16 per cent, with sales from Next Directory increasing by 27 per cent.

A final dividend of 6.25p (4p) brings the total payout to 9p (5.5p), a rise of 64 per cent. Shareholders will be paid on July 3.

'Game of chance' for names

LLOYD'S names are involved in a game of chance in which they can suffer huge losses almost by random, according to a review by James Smart, an accountant at Binder Hamlyn, into the £56 million of losses suffered by names on syndicate 604 (Sarah Bagnall writes).

Syndicate 604 suffered badly from asbestos and other latent liability claims emanating from America. In syndicate 604's case, the loss burden fell on the group of names who were underwriting on the syndicate in 1984 because exposure was not passed on to a new group through reinsurance. However, the losses relate to policies written in the 1940s, and placing the entire loss on a single group of names is not equitable, says Mr Smart.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.91	2.14
Belgium £	16.78	15.22
Canada \$	48.08	44.78
Denmark Kr	2.970	42.21
France F	0.755	0.701
Germany DM	9.52	8.72
Finland Mk	7.82	6.97
France F	2.54	2.38
Germany DM	9.52	8.72
Greece Dr	361.00	356.00
Hong Kong \$	12.28	12.03
Ireland Pt	1.04	0.98
Israel	5.2819	4.5319
Italy Lit	2848.00	2890.00
Japan Yen	167.00	141.00
Netherlands Gld	0.803	0.548
Norway Kr	2.857	2.427
Portugal Esc	10.57	5.77
Spain Ptas	246.50	228.00
Switzerland F	1.37	1.24
Sweden Kr	12.44	11.94
Switzerland F	1.37	1.24
Turkey Lira	6.975	6.924
USA \$	1.7000	1.5780

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Pennington, page 25

Airlines face fundraising difficulties

AIRLINES face growing difficulty in raising funds to acquire the \$30 billion of new aircraft they have on order each year, a leading banker warned (Ross Tiernan writes). Western banks, their balance sheets constrained by the need to retain £1 of assets for every £10 loaned, will concentrate lending on quality borrowers, Peter Ibbotson, head of aerospace at NatWest Markets, told a Brussels conference. Only Japanese banks, awash with funds and anxious to develop new markets, will initially prove enthusiastic lenders.

Banks are also concerned about the impact of state aid on airline profitability. Mr Ibbotson said. Appealing to Neil Kinnock, the European Union Transport Commissioner, to take a tough stance against aid, he said bankers needed a predictable political regime.

Bank takes liberal line on planned gilts repo market

By Janet Bush
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England yesterday confirmed that a new, open market in gilt-edged repos will start at the beginning of next year, in line with the timetable envisaged by the Chancellor.

The Bank yesterday produced a paper giving technical plans for the new market. The paper will form the basis for further consultation and work on items such as settlement procedure and monitoring of the market as it grows.

The Bank, of which Eddie George is Governor, has opted for as liberal and inclusive an approach as possible, leaving to participants much of the detail of how the market will develop. The framework envisages a repo market similar in practice and structure to mar-



George seeking views

kets already operating, notably the huge US Treasury bond market. The idea is that Britain's market will thus be familiar to overseas investors, who, it is hoped, will become even more enthusiastic participants in the gilt market. They

already hold nearly 20 per cent of gilts.

A repo is a transaction in which one market participant can lend gilts in return for cash, or vice versa. It is similar to the system of stock borrowing in which similar deals are negotiated bilaterally, but gilts are lent in exchange for other securities, such as certificates of deposit. The rationale behind a repo system is that the market as a whole gains flexibility and liquidity and the Government's borrowing costs are duly cut. The Treasury has estimated that every one basis point off yields cuts the cost of borrowing to the Government by £25 million annually.

The Bank has thrown the new market open to all participants, but has no immediate plans to enter into gilt repos or stock-lending itself. The two major advances in yesterday's paper are the agreement of a watertight legal framework for deals and a code of conduct. This leaves mostly technical work to be done before the starting date of January 2, 1996, which now looks realistic.

UK water firms dragged into Australian dispute

By Rachel Bridge in Sydney

THAMES WATER and North West Water have become entangled in a dispute over foreign company involvement in the A\$1.5 billion (£680 million) privatisation of South Australia's water operations. The two have been shortlisted along with Générale des Eaux and Lyonnaise des Eaux de France to run the water and waste water system in Adelaide.

But Senator Peter Cook, the Industry, Science and Technology Minister in the Australian federal Government,

lied Government for failing to include an Australian company in the tender process. "It is critical that for something as strategic as water and sewerage management the ownership is Australian," he said.

He also called for a delay in the awarding of the contract to allow time for an Australian-controlled consortium to be put together.

However, the South Australian Government defended its actions yesterday, saying that no Australian company had the technology to undertake

BAYER AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT
The Annual General Meeting of Bayer Aktiengesellschaft will be held on 26th April, 1995 in Cologne. Payment of a dividend of 28% for the year 1994 will be proposed.

Copies of the Company's Annual Report for 1994 in English will be available from S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

United Kingdom Shareholders who wish to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting should by 15th April 1995, inform S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd., Paying Agent, 2 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA who will make the necessary arrangements on their behalf.

Under Section 125 of the German Companies Act, the Board of Management is only obliged to provide information on proposals and nominations that may be made by shareholders if the parties concerned prove their standing as shareholders in good time.

BAYER AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Three in line to buy NatWest custody unit

NATIONAL Westminster Bank has a shortlist of three parties interested in buying its £57 billion domestic and global custody business. The bank put the business up for sale several weeks ago, after deciding it was non-core. NatWest declined to comment on its plans yesterday.

NatWest Investment Services, the custody business, employs 240 people. Its biggest clients are the NatWest asset management business, which is run by NatWest Markets, and its pension fund. Other banks see their custody operations — the safekeeping of securities for clients — as key to selling other services. But the custody services market has become increasingly competitive and NatWest decided the returns from it were insufficient.

NatWest said it will make a £5 million profit on the sale of its 19.21 per cent holding in Creditwest, the Italian bank. It has agreed in principle to sell the stake to Credito Emiliano for £12.9 million.

Ratner rebels succeed

REBEL preference shareholders of Signet, formerly Ratners, have succeeded in forcing an extraordinary meeting to consider the break-up of the debt-laden jewellery group. The rebels, who are owed £100 million in dividend arrears, have become alarmed at the slide in the group's share price and are pressing for radical action. They believe some form of break-up is the only way the group can only repay its £360 million of debt. Goldsmiths, the rival jewellery chain, and Argos have been cited as potential buyers of H Samuel and Ernest Jones, Signet's UK businesses. Signet is advising shareholders to take no action until a meeting is held.

Revamp at Meggitt

MEGGITT, the troubled engineering company where the acquisitive TT Group has taken a 4 per cent shareholding, is to begin a wide-ranging restructuring. The company is to withdraw from its contracting activities, which last year had sales of £73 million while other businesses, with sales of £43 million, have been identified for disposal. The company yesterday disclosed a decline in pre-tax profits to £14.8 million in 1994 from £23.3 million in the previous year, with earnings falling to 4.3p a share from 7.1p. The total dividend is being maintained at 3.93p, with a 2.63p final, due to be paid on July 7.

Croda disappoints

SHARES in Croda International fell 26p to 335p after the chemicals company's 1994 financial results disappointed the City. Profits fell to £42.8 million before tax from £48.9 million in spite of a £3 million exceptional income from an insurance claim and a £1.8 million pension credit. At the operating level profits were £43 million (£43.2 million), on higher turnover of £423 million (£415.1 million). The company is negotiating the sale of its cosmetics and toiletries business, which incurred losses of £700,000 against profits of £1.7 million last time. Earnings were 22.9p a share (27.6p). A final dividend of 5.8p a share, due July 3, makes a total of 8.9p (8.4p).

Grampian lifts payout

GRAMPIAN HOLDINGS, the Scottish mini-conglomerate, said yesterday that the long-awaited benefits of its extensive restructuring were finally beginning to show through. Bill Hughes, chairman and chief executive, announced a lower than expected increase in profits before tax and exceptional from £5.6 million to £8.5 million in the year to December 31. Stripping out the £3.5 million net exceptional cost of the restructuring in 1993, profits slipped from £8.6 million. The final dividend, due May 30, was lifted to 4.05p, making a total for the year of 5.75p, up from 5.5p last time. Earnings per share rose from a post-exceptional 7.35p to 8.73p.

More power bills cut

TWO more regional electricity companies in England and Wales have announced cuts in the bills their customers will have to pay from next month. Eastern Group, the largest of the 12 companies, and Midlands Electricity, follow Southern Electric and London Electricity which announced price cuts on Tuesday. Eastern is offering its customers an average saving of about 3 per cent, which will rise to 4 per cent for consumers with lower than average bills. The savings stem from the recent decision to cut standing charges and freeze prices. Midlands is also freezing tariffs, claiming this equates to a cut of between 3 and 4 per cent in real terms.

Downturn at Senior

SENIOR ENGINEERING is holding its final dividend after a decline in taxable profits to £18.1 million in 1994, from £24.2 million in the previous 12 months. The downturn was partly caused by losses of £4.2 million on discontinued businesses, compounded by a sharp decline in profits in the thermal engineering division. A final dividend of 2.1p a share, due June 5, makes a total of 3.4p, compared with an adjusted 3.27p previously. Earnings were 4.39p a share (6.95p). The company said that the problems of the thermal engineering division had now been fully addressed.

Losses hold back Chime

ONE-OFF disposal losses held back profits growth at Chime Communications. Sir Tim Bell's public relations group that gained a listing last June after a reverse takeover of Chartwell, Chime, which has since divested of the Chartwell businesses, made a pre-tax profit of £128,000 in the nine months to December 31, compared to a loss of £1.2 million last time. Chime made an operating profit of £1.5 million — excluding exceptional losses of £1.3 million on the sale of a property and Chartwell — compared with a loss of £1.1 million. There is a final dividend of 0.8p.

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line to buy custody unit

Bank has a shortage of shares to buy the business up to 100 million in the past year. The bank's share price has fallen from 150p to 100p. The bank's share price has fallen from 150p to 100p. The bank's share price has fallen from 150p to 100p.

rels succeed

Shareholders of the former British Telecom group have approved a plan to buy back shares worth 100 million. The plan was approved by a 95% majority.

Meggitt

The company has announced a new strategy to focus on its core business. The company has announced a new strategy to focus on its core business.

appoints

The company has appointed a new chairman. The company has appointed a new chairman.

lifts payout

The company has increased its dividend. The company has increased its dividend.

er bills cut

The company has reduced its operating costs. The company has reduced its operating costs.

at Senior

The company has promoted a senior executive. The company has promoted a senior executive.

d back China

The company has returned to the Chinese market. The company has returned to the Chinese market.

investment guarantee to fall

The company's investment guarantee has been reduced. The company's investment guarantee has been reduced.

P-TOP

The company has launched a new product. The company has launched a new product.

OCKS

The company has sold shares. The company has sold shares.

Wolsey

□ Changing economics of the pits □ Shell's gloomy realism □ Repos are good for London

Coal gathers steam



PENNINGTON

ONLY four months ago, Richard Budge, Britain's new King Coal, was mocked as an unrealistic optimist. His drive to raise £815 million with which to buy the English mining assets of British Coal became a trial of will.

The main reason: suggestions that he had hopelessly overestimated the price that British-mined coal was likely to fetch when the current supply contracts end in 1998.

Yesterday, Mr Budge was in buoyant mood, and with good reason. The cost of coal brought from the Gulf of Mexico to a gigajoule, or some \$50 dollars a tonne. That is one cent a gigajoule more than Mr Budge predicted his output would fetch three years hence.

For some years. According to Mr McCloskey, "there is a real risk of a physical shortfall in supply".

Spot prices for coal have risen in each of the past 14 months. They are now 25 per cent higher than a year ago. A similar pattern can be seen in coking coal contracts. The latest deal between Hanson's Peabody in America and a Japanese steel producer shows a rise of 12 per cent.

With supply constrained and demand still growing, these prices could climb further.

Coal-consuming industries, such as steel, cement and paper, will find higher energy costs adding to the cost inflation they are experiencing elsewhere. Britain's power generators, who have spent some £300 million on coal import facilities, will now find it less easy to get cheaper supplies overseas.

on stream, coal's share of the electricity market in the United Kingdom is shrinking fast. Given Britain's free market energy policy, the biggest competition for British coal comes not from imported supplies, but from other fuels.

To arrest and reverse the decline in coal's UK market, Mr Budge and his smaller rivals, including Celtic Energy, Coal Investments and Mining Scotland, must drive down costs to the point where coal-derived energy can start to drive out alternative fuels.

Glasnost on the South bank

SHELL has thrown open its cupboards. It found few skeletons but a thick layer of dust covering everything. The Anglo-Dutch oil company rarely goes public on financial matters.

announcements concerning the never-ending rise in profits and dividends. But for a company that reported £4 billion profits last year, it did a remarkable job of beating its breast in public yesterday.

Suddenly the world is a dark and dangerous place with never-ending low oil prices and margins. For the Shell executive, who as a green 1960s graduate walked into the monolithic grey buildings on London's South bank expecting a career that would progress from one lucrative foreign posting to another, the prospects of a gentle slide into retirement in Guildford look less certain.

significant than the loss of comfortable jobs. Shell has been shedding jobs for some time and following the fashion to return to core businesses — a little later than others perhaps, but this group was never known for hurried decisions.

At the core of yesterday's announcement and the decision to bring in gurus from McKinsey was a deep anxiety that the Royal Dutch/Shell group's jungle of committees and reporting hierarchies is not delivering the decisions needed to keep oil and profits flowing at the required rate. Shell has recently suffered shocks from controls breaking down, notably in the currency losses at its Japanese subsidiary, Showa Shell, and a perception in the market that Shell has been too slow to sell its loss-making metals businesses.

The answer, proposed yesterday, is to scrap some committees and create new ones, streamlining the bureaucracy rather than collapsing it entirely. Shell is probably too complex to be run by a Hanson-style shallow pyramid. But having opened the door to more centralisation,

Shell executives can expect the chill wind of individual responsibility to ruffle their feathers even more.

Another blow for the clubmen

THE Bank of England has opted for an evolutionary approach to its new repo market for gilt-edged, leaving it to market forces to determine many details. So this element in the latest wave of change follows City tradition.

Big Bang was the exception rather than the rule. The sweeping deregulation and switch to electronic quotation, all on a single day in 1986, was partly due to the competition-based ideology of the time, which led to the Stock Exchange's club rules being challenged.

The plan unravelled yesterday is more a case of catching up. There is already a well developed repo market in the US Treasury bond market and a functional one in France. Germany has an embryonic market but most of its business is done in London to avoid labyrinthine tax rules.

The decision to create a market here reflects demands from international traders and investors, who do not see why they should trade UK bonds in a special way. They will determine its exact working and scale. Only if trade multiplies will the Treasury actually save real money on borrowing costs, the formal rationale for the change.

What this latest innovation shares with Big Bang is that the doors of the cosy gentlemen's club of City insiders have been flung wide open. In 1986, the distinction between brokers and jobbers went. This time, it seems likely that another layer of specialised middle men, such as Stock Exchange money brokers, may have to merge with larger institutions as their role is usurped by seamless electronic trading.

Second helping

THE prospect of Queens Moat shares resuming dealings in May should not bring euphoria. As the unhappy 1994 results show, the dead hand of banks still weighs heavy. Shareholders should be wary when they receive notice of a seemingly cheap offer from banks to sell back the bulk of the much-diluted equity. Those stuffed with stock for so long may feel they want no second helpings.

Blue Circle cautious after orders downturn

By MARTIN WALLER

AN ABRUPT downturn in construction orders in the three months to the end of January has prompted caution over prospects for the second half of 1995 from Blue Circle Industries, Britain's biggest cement producer, in spite of sharply higher volumes in 1994.

Keith Orrell-Jones, the chief executive, said orders had fallen by 25 per cent against their levels a year previously. As a consequence, while Blue Circle was forecasting a 3 per cent rise in volumes in the US, a market that was still recovering from recession, the closest "guesstimate" the company could reach for the UK was of a 2 per cent gain, most of this in the first half.

The group was reporting pre-tax profits for 1994 of £243.8 million before £59.4 million of one-off costs from a disposal and the fine imposed on the industry for anti-competitive practices. This compared with a figure of £165.6 million for 1993.

Earnings per share before exceptional items rose from 14.5p to 21.1p, and the group is paying a final dividend of 9p, raising the total to 0.5p to 11.75p.

The heavy building materials side, encouraged by recovering markets in most of the areas in which the group operates, managed a 43 per cent rise in operating profits to £196.8 million, but home prod-

ucts, which includes bathroom and central heating components, was little changed at £67.1 million against £64.4 million.

Mr Orrell-Jones said the heating side had been hit by price competition both in the UK and Germany, and immediate prospects for demand this year were uncertain. Blue Circle has announced a price increase of 4 per cent for cement in the UK, and the signs are that this will stick. Last year, a similar price rise, the first for some years in the cement industry, resulted in an actual increase of about half a per cent on cement volumes that were 15 per cent higher, coinciding with a change in the mix of sales from bagged cement towards less expensive bulk purchases.

Mr Orrell-Jones said the group would review growth opportunities in the core business. "We're in a position where we could now handle add-on acquisitions, but we will not be going out and using the strength of the balance sheet in a cavalier manner."

The company, like the other companies fined by the European Commission is appealing. Blue Circle's provision to cover the cost pending the appeal totalled £16.2 million.

Blue Circle shares added 10p to 294p.

Tempus, page 26

Harrisons can make £300m bid

By ERIC REGULY

HARRISONS & Crosfield said it is in a position to make a large acquisition in either the building supplies or chemicals businesses, now that it has completed the sale of its Indonesian plantations.

The plantation sale, together with the disposal of its consumer food activities, allowed Foods and H&C Cereals, left the company with profits of £138 million and gearing of 2 per cent at the end of 1994, compared with 55 per cent the previous year. Bill Turcan, chief executive, said the largely debt-free balance sheet will allow it to take on an acquisition of about £300 million. Although nothing is imminent, he said: "We are looking at a number of opportunities."

He said a purchase in the building supply business would make sense because the market is highly fragmented. H&C would like to boost the market share of its wholesale depots, which accounts for only 7 per cent of its earnings. H&C reported pre-tax earnings, including profits from disposals, of £236.7 million in 1994 (1993 £198 million). Operating profits, before the exceptional items, rose 12 per cent to £108 million on turnover of £2 billion. A 5.4p final leaves the total unchanged at 9p.

H&C reported pre-tax earnings, including profits from disposals, of £236.7 million in 1994 (1993 £198 million). Operating profits, before the exceptional items, rose 12 per cent to £108 million on turnover of £2 billion. A 5.4p final leaves the total unchanged at 9p.

Coats gives boost to textile sector

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

COATS VIVELLA gave the depressed textile sector a much needed boost yesterday as it reported profits in line with City expectations and predicted a year of strong growth.

Sentiment has turned against the sector recently because of fears that rising raw material prices and a weak dollar would hit textile companies' profits. However, Neville Bain, chief executive, said Coats had absorbed much of the cost pressure and would continue to do so.

Coats reported an 18 per cent increase in underlying pre-tax profits before exceptional items to £152.4 million, from £129.1 million. However, the bottom line was depressed by a £51 million exceptional charge relating to the disposal of the carpets and yarns and fabrics businesses.

The precision engineering and fashion retail operations reported profit increases of 16 and 19 per cent respectively. Mr Bain said that Coats was on the lookout for acquisitions and would be prepared to pay £200 million to £300 million if the right opportunity came along.

A final dividend of 5.0p (4.75p) brings the total payout to 8.5p (8.0p).

Tempus, page 26

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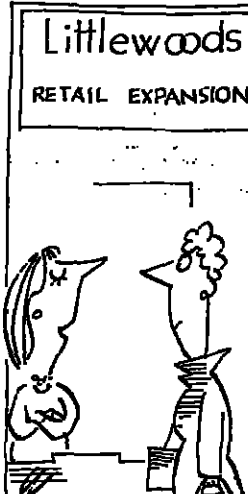
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Granting a new lease of life

LIFE begins at 70 ... providing you have the know-how, and are not a judge. SmithKline Beecham, the pharmaceutical combine, wants to change its "directors must retire at 70" rule so that William Grant can continue to serve. Grant has been a director of SB for 21 years, but by the time of the April 24 annual meeting he will have turned 70. Under SB's current articles, Grant must retire. However, he has such a wealth of experience in the US healthcare market that SB believes "it would be wise to retain his expertise" at least for another year. But fellow director Sir Robert Clark, SB's vice chairman and 71, is going to retire.

Dogfighting

TWO birds with one stein, perhaps? Friedrich Zimmermann, the former German Interior Minister, has run into heavy flak over the discovery that he not only sits on the supervisory board of Lufthansa, the German national carrier, but happens to work for a Munich law firm, Nörr, Steffenhöfer & Lutz, which advises the airline's domestic arch-rival Deutsche BA, a British Airways associate. Pure coincidence, is how Herr Zimmermann dismisses the matter.



Star treatment

THREADNEEDLE Asset Management, the one-year-old merged fund management business of Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar, rather rubs Gartmore's face in it with the tenor of its announcement that it has poached Simon Davies from Gartmore, where he was international investment director. Davies, 36, joins Threadneedle as chief investment officer with overall responsibility for a £25 billion investment portfolio. Threadneedle certainly labours the point about how important Davies was at Gartmore ... "Simon has been one of the driving forces behind Gartmore's considerable achievements in the last few years". "He is one of the most highly rated fund managers of his generation in the City." "He is a member of Gartmore's investment policy committee ...". "His appointment is a coup ...". etc. Gartmore should sharpen its pen for the inevitable day it snatches somebody from Threadneedle.

Coming a Kopper

DEUTSCHE BANK, Germany's largest commercial bank, came unstuck yesterday. No sooner had Hilmar Kopper, the chief executive, outlined cost-cutting plans to a Frankfurt audience when the cardboard placard bearing the bank's logo peeled off the wall behind him and fell on the heads of several of the company's top executives. Luckily none was hurt. "We should have set aside an extra five marks for better adhesive to cover such risks too," Kopper quipped.

COLIN CAMPBELL

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY



The long road to putting the Great back into Britain

The economic rebound has been the mirror image of an exceptionally deep recession

THE idea of putting the Great back into Britain was supposed to have been the theme of the conference on Britain in the World, which John Major launched in London yesterday. That, at least, was the fervent hope of European officials and Ministers: the timing could not have been more propitious to win some public support in their eternal battle with the Treasury over diplomatic funding, as well as to distract the media from their obsession with Tory infighting and sexual prurience. In the event, the conference turned out to be a damp squib. Partly this was attributable to Mr Major's predictably pettyfogging performance as the keynote speaker: his idea of a broad strategic vision for the 21st century was to announce a bureaucratic revision to the terms proposed by Britain for the UN sanctions against Iraq. There were, however, four more important reasons why almost any campaign to "put the Great back into Britain" was bound to fail flat.

The first is that many of the statistics suggesting Britain's newfound world leadership are misleading — and people often have a clear intuitive sense of what is really happening behind the statistics the politicians spout. The second is that Britain's greatest assets are cultural, not economic. They have, therefore, been systematically undervalued and degraded by the book-keeping mentality that has dominated the country since the 1960s. It is typical of modern Britain that it cannot even bring itself to have a Minister of Culture, describing him instead as the Minister for National Heritage, which sounds reassuringly materialistic.

The third reason why tub-thumping about Britain's greatness is unlikely to produce much resonance with the public is that the British people are the least chauvinistic in the world — to their great credit and to my personal benefit as a Briton by naturalisation, rather than birth. There can scarcely be another place on earth where one sees the national flag fly so rarely, where minority races and religions are treated with such toleration, and where most people cannot even make up their mind what their country is called when addressing a postcard from abroad: England, Britain, Great Britain or UK?

The fourth reason for public scepticism about Britain's role in the world is the one that currently dominates all the headlines: the country's inability to settle its relationship with Europe.

Since this is supposed to be a column about economics, I will confine my further observations to the first and last points. In the rest of this column I will look at Britain's relative economic performance. Next Thursday, I hope to review where Britain stands in relation to Europe, a task that should be helped by spending the weekend at the Königswinter conference of the Deutsch-Englische Gesellschaft. (You see what I mean about the ambiguity over Britain's name.)

There is much to be said for the argument that Britain is advancing economically in relation to other countries and, in any case, stands much higher in the world economic pecking order than many cynics believe. The latter point is often forgotten, when Britain is described as a "middle-ranking economy" or a "third-rate power". In fact, Britain comes either fifth or sixth in terms of economic output (depending on what exchange rate is used for comparisons with Italy) — and is only about 15 per cent behind France. The next largest national economies, Canada and Spain, are only about half as big.

Such backward giants such as China and Russia are much further back, when comparisons are made in terms of the market exchange rates which determine a country's demand of world resources and its impact on world trade. China's GDP in 1992, for example, was \$442 billion, compared with Britain's \$1,025 billion and Spain's \$548 billion. Objectively, therefore, Britain is neither middle-ranking nor third rate, but occupies an important place among the second rank of world economies, behind America, Japan and Germany, but alongside Italy and France. Neither is it true that Britain has been particularly negligent in maintaining its "social infrastructure". As the bottom row of charts shows, our Government spends rather more than most other countries on education and far more on defence. Only in the health service is relative underfunding a legitimate complaint.

More recently the news for Britain has become even better. Since 1993, our economy really has grown faster and our unemployment has fallen more dramatically than in any other European country. It is also true, as the Government constantly reminds us, that Britain's export performance is now better than Germany's or Japan's, that Britain receives 40 per cent of inward investment into Europe, that the present economic recovery is well-balanced between regions and that growth shows every sign of continuing for many years ahead.

The trouble with all this good news is that Britain's recent economic rebound has been the mirror image of an exceptionally deep recession, as the public is all too well aware. Taking the five years between 1989 and 1994 as a whole, Britain has actually done rather worse than most other countries, in spite of its recent out-performance. Worse still, the same is true if we look further back, at the miracle years of the mid-1980s, when many of the benefits of Lady Thatcher's reforms supposedly came into play.

Consider the top row of charts, which compare performance over the past two economic cycles as a whole. Britain did only slightly better than other major economies in terms of productivity growth. And even this apparent advantage was achieved by cutting employment, instead of raising output. Looking at GDP growth, rather than productivity, Britain was in last place.

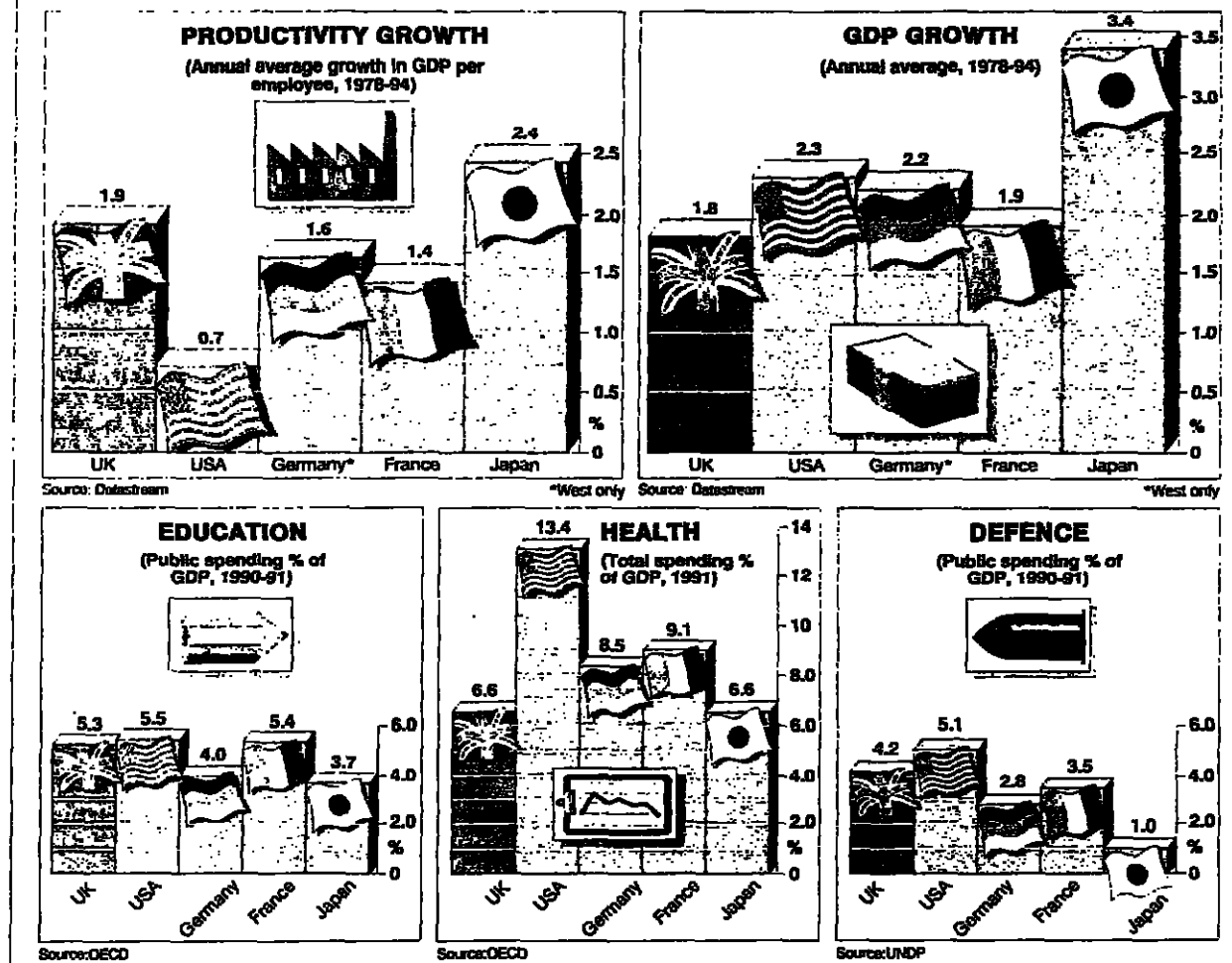
Only by starting such comparisons from 1980, when British industry was already decimated by recession, do the statistics show Britain's GDP outperforming other countries — and even then by only a tiny margin. Again, the British people doubtless have an instinctive feel for the truth, which is why they are unimpressed by Government boasts that Britain's policies are self-evidently more successful than Europe's.

A longer view also casts a less rosy light on Britain's export and investment performance. Exports are now growing strongly, but from a base that was badly depressed by the two recessions and the Treasury's long-standing addiction to an overvalued pound. Foreign-owned companies now provide 40 per cent of Britain's manufactured exports and 33 per cent of total investment. Is this a wonderful achievement? Or is it an illustration of how far Britain's indigenous manufacturers have declined?

Such questions do not imply that Britain's painful reforms in the 1980s were in vain. Even if Britain has declined slightly in relation to the rest of the world since the late 1970s, at least the rate of decline, which was quite precipitous in the 1960s and 1970s, has unambiguously slowed. Moreover, Britain might have held on to the gains it had made in the 1980s had it not been for the exceptionally long and intense monetary squeeze Mr Major maintained from 1990 to 1992. Without the boom and bust caused by shadowing the mark and joining the ERM, Britain's position relative to Europe would almost certainly have improved over the whole 16-year period of Tory Government.

That simple fact, I believe, goes a long way to explain the sudden hostility to Europe that developed from 1992 onwards in the Conservative Party and the country at large. But more of that next week.

HOW BRITAIN COMPARES



How Jaeger fashioned a new style

Susan Gilchrist reports on a change of image for a classic fashion brand

Dramatic change is taking place at Jaeger. The brand, long associated with the shires' twin-set and pearls brigade, is now looking decidedly more stylish. And its results are anything but staid.

Yesterday the fashion retail division of Coats Viyella, the Jaeger and Viyella brands, reported profits 19 per cent ahead to £10.8 million, from £9.1 million. They have more than quadrupled over the past three years at a time when many premium brands have suffered.

The catalyst for much of this change has been Fiona Harrison, Jaeger's chief executive, who joined in September 1991 from Clairvol. She had no fashion experience, but was determined to reinvent the brand image and instil commercial discipline.

"I was a great fan of the brand and I felt they were under-exploited," she says. "It was a very resilient business but had not grown as fast as its competitors." Whereas Jaeger thrived in the Sixties and Seventies, it suffered in the

Eighties as a plethora of German and Italian brands such as Max Mara, Escada and Mondri upped the stakes.

"The business was delivering significantly lower than normal returns," she said. Its saving grace was the core of loyal customers, who ensured the brand's survival. But Ms Harrison recognised it also had to attract new customers if it wanted to grow. "When you mention Jaeger to customers, words like 'classic' and 'traditional' spring to mind."

Last spring some of the more traditional elements of the range were dropped in favour of a more fashionable look. Ms Harrison says it was a change in emphasis rather than a full-scale repositioning. Nevertheless she agrees that in its first season the balance was shifted too far. "We did not have enough of the traditional

When you say Jaeger, words like 'traditional' spring to mind

ly to best-selling lines." Jaeger has radical plans for a detailed database on both account and non-account customers. The company has spent £5 million on IT in the past three years and now has an Epos system that tracks customers' spending. "If a regular customer goes into any store the staff will know who you are and what you buy. They will know your size, favourite colours and what you bought recently. In this business — where personal service is vital and a sale can take up to three hours — that's leading edge."

But Ms Harrison is under no illusions that much remains to be done. Operating margins of 7 per cent are still below average for a premium brand business. She has set a target of 10 per cent that she hopes to achieve within the next two years.

Annual Meeting of Shareholders

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders will be held on Thursday, May 11, 1995, 10:00 a.m. at the BASF-Feierabendhaus, Leuschnerstraße 47, Ludwigshafen/Rhine, Germany

Agenda

1. Presentation of the Financial Statements of BASF Aktiengesellschaft and BASF Group for 1994; presentation of the 1994 Annual Report covering BASF Aktiengesellschaft and the BASF Group; presentation of the Supervisory Board Report.
2. Declaration of dividend.
3. Ratification of the actions of the Supervisory Board.
4. Ratification of the actions of the Board of Executive Directors.
5. Appointment of auditors.
6. Election of Supervisory Board member.
7. Elimination of existing and creation of new authorized capital.
8. Approval of a control and profit-transfer agreement.

Shareholders wishing to participate in the Annual Meeting and to exercise their right to vote must have deposited their shares during normal office hours and in the prescribed form at a depository bank. The shares should remain deposited until the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. Shareholders have the right to vote by proxy. Depository banks and the full Agenda are published in the "Bundesanzeiger" of the German Federal Republic Nr. 62 of March 29, 1995.

Depository banks in the U.K.: Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

The deposit is only effective if the shares are submitted by Wednesday, May 3, 1995.

The Board of Executive Directors Ludwigshafen/Rhine, March 29, 1995

BASF Aktiengesellschaft 67056 Ludwigshafen

BASF

Colin Narbrough at a monument to French technology

Renault builds for the 21st century

JUST a stone's throw from the grand baroque Palais de Versailles, Renault, France's part-privatised car-maker, is building a Fr6.4 billion "Technocentre" that it hopes will ensure it a prominent place in the future European car industry.

The contrast between the company's vision and its immediate circumstances could not have been more starkly illustrated than on Tuesday, when it had to switch the venue of its annual results conference to avoid protesting workers at its Billancourt headquarters on the edge of Paris.

As foreign journalists toured the Technocentre site, whose prototype building section should start work in a few weeks, Renault was elsewhere engaged in an old-fashioned industrial dispute over pay. Three weeks of disruption has cost Fr200-300 million.

Yet Louis Schweitzer, Renault chairman, is no French corporate dreamer. The 1994 results confirmed that even though the state holds a majority stake, Renault has been



The Technocentre will house 6,300 engineers

one of Europe's most profitable volume carmakers.

The group net profit of Fr3.7 billion was the eighth consecutive year in the black and tripled profits from 1993, when it suffered a traumatic breakdown of a merger plan with Volvo, the Swedish carmaker. But ending the affair brought a Fr488 million capital gain from the share sales.

As if to fête the public offering in November of a heavily oversubscribed 27.9 per cent of the company, Ren-

ault eliminated its financial debt for the first time, moving to a Fr1.45 billion net surplus. Renault's capital was given a Fr2 billion boost by the Government in conjunction with the flotation, which raised Fr8.6 billion. The political success of the share sale was that two thirds of the traditionally militant workforce took up the offer.

Hopeful of full privatisation after this spring's presidential election, M. Schweitzer said that Renault had been a "good

investment" for the state. The Paris Bourse was unimpressed and marked down the share below the flotation price on the view that the operating profit, though tripled to Fr2.32 billion, was disappointing.

In spite of France's strong franc policy, Renault last year raised its market share in Europe to 11 per cent from 10.6 per cent. But the best year for the marque in a decade, with four models — Clio, Renault 19, Twingo and Laguna — are in Europe's top 20, failed to prevent operating profits on cars falling to Fr289 million from Fr905 million.

The Technocentre, due for completion in 1998, will house 6,300 engineers and specialists in all aspects of research and development. A central aim is to cut model development time to 38 months from the 58 months taken for the Safrane, saving up to Fr1.5 billion per model.

Banks are funding most of the cost of the centre, half an hour's drive from Paris. But Renault has an option to buy them out when, it hopes, prices on its old sites have recovered.

Objective measures can be used, say Brian Friedman and Oliver Overstall

How to set boardroom pay

Beneath all the headlines on directors' pay have been calmer voices working to restore credibility to remuneration committees. The Institute of Directors published guidelines on disclosure of directors' pay in January. The Greenbury committee, due to report in the summer, is also seeking to formulate rules on the subject. Arthur Andersen has also published a study to establish an objective and consistent methodology for benchmarking top executive pay.

Informed commentators call for greater disclosure. Although in the short run this is likely to create even more headlines, American experience is that public disclosure exerts a moderating influence on levels of executive reward.

In the US, the SEC requires public companies to publish a proxy statement with their annual accounts. This statement contains more detail of executive remuneration than is required in the UK. For instance, it must contain precise descriptions of salary, bonuses and stock options for each of the five most highly compensated executives, identified by name. Options are valued to provide shareholders with a measure of inherent value within each option grant.

The format of the data is standardised so that it can be assimilated quickly by the reader. By contrast, in the UK the level and format of disclosure can vary considerably. The New York Stock Exchange



Brian Friedman, left, and Oliver Overstall favour benchmarks

also requires additional disclosure, such as proof that shareholders' approval has been sought for share awards, including full disclosure of the number, price, period during which options will be issued, any terms for exercise and the maximum number of options that may be awarded to any individual.

Proxy statements must also contain a report by the remuneration committee describing the policy adopted and the means used to determine executive compensation. Whether this level of detailed disclosure will emerge as a recommendation of the Greenbury committee remains to be seen. In

any event, one possibility must be a move towards US-style proxy statements.

The fundamental question remains — how should directors' pay be set? A reliance on following what others do has become notorious for tightening the salary spiral. Rather, what the Institute of Directors calls the "range and weight of responsibilities" of the director and "appropriate market considerations" should be taken into account in setting, first and foremost, the basic salary.

Arthur Andersen has developed a method of assessing reward linked to the size and complexity of

an organisation. Apart from size (market capitalisation, turnover and number of employees), factors considered include the internationality, breadth of products and markets, risk, regulatory and competitive environment and rates of change experienced by the organisation.

Incentive/bonus payments to top executives have been particularly notorious — the Arthur Andersen study found no significant correlation between bonuses and company performance as measured by total shareholder return. In the US, a full description of incentive plans, whether they be long, medium or short term, has to be included in the proxy statement.

Under current UK disclosure requirements, it is often difficult to discern what is going on. Leading companies are, however, responding to the current environment by heading calls for greater disclosure and clarity.

One logical outcome of this trend will be an increasing desire among companies and their shareholders for bonuses to be benchmarked against comparable organisations.

Benchmarking bonus plans based on standardised measures of corporate performance is achievable. Benchmarking bonus plans based on personal performance may be just a pipedream.

Brian Friedman and Oliver Overstall lead the Senior Executive Pay practice within Arthur Andersen.

Accountants boring? Not likely

GEOFF WHITTINGTON has always been an iconoclast. And as Price Waterhouse Professor of Financial Accounting at Cambridge, his powers show no signs of waning. His recent annual Aberystwyth lecture was on the theme of "Is accounting becoming too interesting?" His opening summed up the dilemma.

"Goethe wrote double-entry accounting is one of the finest inventions of the human spirit — unfortunately he was joking." But he went on to describe the huge strides accountants have made in the past 25 years. The real question seemed to be how such a boring profession has attracted so many top graduates, shown huge growth and come to affect everyone in the land.

The attraction of graduates he dealt with easily. At an induction talk he once gave in Bristol, "when I asked 42 students how many thought that accounting would be interesting only seven hands were raised in support. When I asked them whether they thought that accounting would lead to a well-paid job, all 42 students raised at least one hand: some raised both."

But this has brought its own problems. "Accounting," he said, "has become interesting to the public outside the profession, and many within it find the glare of publicity unwelcome — they feel accounting has become too interesting." That simply means accountants like greater income and influence but have not yet



ROBERT BRUCE

taken the responsibilities on board. Nowhere is that more true than in the professional bodies.

In particular, Whittington looked at the English ICA, partly because it is statistically the dominant body and partly because he is a member. "The future of the English ICA," he said, "cannot be viewed with unalloyed optimism. There are three long-running pressures that will continue to make life for the ICA ever more interesting: integration of the profession, apparent alienation of many individual members and regulatory pressures."

None of these is a new problem. But, this week, integration problems are again to the fore. Last Friday, the council of the CIMA, the management accounting

body, voted to take the process of merging with the English ICA to a more detailed stage. The council of the English ICA will vote on the same idea next Wednesday. It is thought a two-stream body with 90,000 members in industry and 50,000 in practice is proposed. But the education systems would be different and the title "chartered accountant" would not apply to all.

It is difficult to see what the English ICA is really up to. Launching its advertising campaign to stress the value of being a chartered accountant at the same time as attempting to merge with people whose right to be called chartered accountants it has repeatedly blocked made no sense.

But the answer to the question of the English ICA's long-term motives could perhaps be found in some of Whittington's figures. These showed that the English ICA student intake for 1992-93 was lower than that of 1969 and, at 4,074 people, well down on the glory years of 1986-87 with 6,287 or 1989-90 with 6,394 students.

It is students, as both the CIMA and the certified accountants know, that turn into good long-term income. The English ICA finds itself in a position where it needs much more income and, the cynics point out, merging two bodies, cutting the overheads and increasing membership, and hence income, by 40,000 or so members, is not a bad strategy.

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The current Secretary will be retiring in the summer, and the Association is seeking a new Secretary to manage a staff of 23, provide services to its 3,000 members, and work with Officers to plan the continued development of its activities.

You will have broad management experience, possibly gained in a general management role in a commercial organisation or in a similar function for another professional or representative body. Strong personal credibility, and the combination of financial expertise with excellent organisational, communication and team management skills will be essential for success in this post.

Please write, in confidence, with full career and salary details to Carolyn Ritchie, MSL International Limited, 32 Aybrook Street, London W1M 3JL, by 10th April 1995. Please quote reference: S2171

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Shares squeezed higher at close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Company	Price	Change	Company	Price	Change
Alcan	11.12	+	Imperial Oil	11.12	+
Banks	11.12	+	Manitoba Hydro	11.12	+
Breweries	11.12	+	Ontario Hydro	11.12	+
Building & Construct	11.12	+	Quebec Hydro	11.12	+
Chemicals	11.12	+	Saskatchewan Power	11.12	+
Diversified Industrials	11.12	+	Alberta Power	11.12	+
Engineering	11.12	+	British Columbia Hydro	11.12	+
Food Manufacturers	11.12	+	Manitoba Hydro	11.12	+
Healthcare	11.12	+	Ontario Hydro	11.12	+
Household Goods	11.12	+	Quebec Hydro	11.12	+
Insurance	11.12	+	Saskatchewan Power	11.12	+
Investment Trusts	11.12	+	Alberta Power	11.12	+
Leisure & Hotels	11.12	+	British Columbia Hydro	11.12	+
Media	11.12	+	Manitoba Hydro	11.12	+
Mining	11.12	+	Ontario Hydro	11.12	+
Oil & Gas	11.12	+	Quebec Hydro	11.12	+
Other Financial	11.12	+	Saskatchewan Power	11.12	+
Pharmaceuticals	11.12	+	Alberta Power	11.12	+
Printing & Paper	11.12	+	British Columbia Hydro	11.12	+
Property	11.12	+	Manitoba Hydro	11.12	+
Retailers, Food	11.12	+	Ontario Hydro	11.12	+
Retailers, General	11.12	+	Quebec Hydro	11.12	+
Spirits, Wines & Ciders	11.12	+	Saskatchewan Power	11.12	+
Support Services	11.12	+	Alberta Power	11.12	+
Telecommunications	11.12	+	British Columbia Hydro	11.12	+
Textiles & Apparel	11.12	+	Manitoba Hydro	11.12	+
Transport	11.12	+	Ontario Hydro	11.12	+
Water	11.12	+	Quebec Hydro	11.12	+



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Company	Price	Change	Company	Price	Change
Alcan	11.12	+	Imperial Oil	11.12	+
Banks	11.12	+	Manitoba Hydro	11.12	+
Breweries	11.12	+	Ontario Hydro	11.12	+
Building & Construct	11.12	+	Quebec Hydro	11.12	+
Chemicals	11.12	+	Saskatchewan Power	11.12	+
Diversified Industrials	11.12	+	Alberta Power	11.12	+
Engineering	11.12	+	British Columbia Hydro	11.12	+
Food Manufacturers	11.12	+	Manitoba Hydro	11.12	+
Healthcare	11.12	+	Ontario Hydro	11.12	+
Household Goods	11.12	+	Quebec Hydro	11.12	+
Insurance	11.12	+	Saskatchewan Power	11.12	+
Investment Trusts	11.12	+	Alberta Power	11.12	+
Leisure & Hotels	11.12	+	British Columbia Hydro	11.12	+
Media	11.12	+	Manitoba Hydro	11.12	+
Mining	11.12	+	Ontario Hydro	11.12	+
Oil & Gas	11.12	+	Quebec Hydro	11.12	+
Other Financial	11.12	+	Saskatchewan Power	11.12	+
Pharmaceuticals	11.12	+	Alberta Power	11.12	+
Printing & Paper	11.12	+	British Columbia Hydro	11.12	+
Property	11.12	+	Manitoba Hydro	11.12	+
Retailers, Food	11.12	+	Ontario Hydro	11.12	+
Retailers, General	11.12	+	Quebec Hydro	11.12	+
Spirits, Wines & Ciders	11.12	+	Saskatchewan Power	11.12	+
Support Services	11.12	+	Alberta Power	11.12	+
Telecommunications	11.12	+	British Columbia Hydro	11.12	+
Textiles & Apparel	11.12	+	Manitoba Hydro	11.12	+
Transport	11.12	+	Ontario Hydro	11.12	+
Water	11.12	+	Quebec Hydro	11.12	+

SHORTS (under 5 years)

Company	Price	Change
Alcan	11.12	+
Banks	11.12	+
Breweries	11.12	+
Building & Construct	11.12	+
Chemicals	11.12	+
Diversified Industrials	11.12	+
Engineering	11.12	+
Food Manufacturers	11.12	+
Healthcare	11.12	+
Household Goods	11.12	+
Insurance	11.12	+
Investment Trusts	11.12	+
Leisure & Hotels	11.12	+
Media	11.12	+
Mining	11.12	+
Oil & Gas	11.12	+
Other Financial	11.12	+
Pharmaceuticals	11.12	+
Printing & Paper	11.12	+
Property	11.12	+
Retailers, Food	11.12	+
Retailers, General	11.12	+
Spirits, Wines & Ciders	11.12	+
Support Services	11.12	+
Telecommunications	11.12	+
Textiles & Apparel	11.12	+
Transport	11.12	+
Water	11.12	+

LONGS (over 15 years)

Company	Price	Change
Alcan	11.12	+
Banks	11.12	+
Breweries	11.12	+
Building & Construct	11.12	+
Chemicals	11.12	+

1

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How your council rates in efficiency league

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

THE first league tables of local authority performance are published today by the Audit Commission, giving voters the chance to assess how well their councils perform in comparison with others.

The result reveals huge variations in performance. Standards and spending priorities differ enormously, even between councils with the same political control. Although the commission report says that local government as a whole provides many services well at a reasonable cost, not one council can boast that it has all-round standards of excellence.

Some councils take a week to relet council homes, others take more than 15 weeks. Some have rent arrears of less than 2 per cent, while others have ten times as many. Some provide school places for more than 80 per cent of their under-fives.

"The idea of the all-competent,

all-conquering council that runs everything efficiently is tosh," Andrew Foster, controller of the commission, says. "There is a substantial variation and if some councils are breathtakingly bad, we don't have many that are even competent all-round."

The figures are already out of date because they relate to the year 1993-94. Given that local authorities had to make widespread cuts this year to stay inside their capping limits, and have done so for the year ahead, it is possible that standards will fall next year.

While many councils provide good services cheaply, most end up in the bottom half of the table in at least some categories. This means that for the poor, disabled or handicapped, care is a lottery decided by where they live.

If a child in Sunderland needs a report drawn up on its special educational needs, it has no chance of receiving this within six months.



The greenest council in England is Adur District, West Sussex, the first to recycle more than 25 per cent of its household waste. Residents have to sort their rubbish

If the child moved a mile or two down the road into Durham, there would be an 80 per cent chance that the report would be completed within that time.

Lincolnshire is not a place where

the elderly and infirm can expect much council care. The county supports the lowest percentage of old people in homes and provides the second lowest level of home helps. It also is in the bottom ten

authorities for providing help to allow those with physical disabilities to live at home.

Generally counties and districts in the South East perform badly in the social service categories, while Welsh counties are near the top of the league, helped by the fact that they tend to receive higher grants. No fair comparisons can be made between inner-city boroughs and country districts, so the commission has accompanied the tables with a warning that factors such as social deprivation, density and age of the population need to be taken into consideration.

Nevertheless Hackney and Lambeth, two of London's most notorious boroughs, are shown to be grossly inefficient in several areas. Hackney took 37.4 weeks to relet its empty housing stock, compared with London's average of nine weeks. The borough has already announced that it is taking action to remedy the situation.

Lambeth, one of the few authorities to have a positive discrimina-

tion employment policy for the physically handicapped, was the only borough in the country unable to say how many physically handicapped people live in its borders.

Westminster, the most successful Tory council in London at the last election, is in the bottom ten in eight of the 19 categories and is middle-ranked in a further six. It spends less per child on secondary education than any other authority in England, and GCSE and A-level results have already shown it is tenth from bottom of all English education authorities.

Liverpool, which was a synonym for council incompetence in the 1980s, is showing signs that it is turning the corner, with the highest proportion of under-fives in school places and several other indicators near the top.

The knowledge that the tables were going to be produced appears already to have encouraged some councils to change bad practice. In the past year North Tyneside, which performs significantly worse

than South Tyneside, has doubled the number of housing benefit cases it processes promptly and halved the number of unlet homes. Ealing, which charged the most expensive council rents in the country, switched from Tory to Labour control last May and has frozen rent levels.

Before collecting the statistics the commission carried out opinion polls to discover what the public wanted to know about its local authorities. Councils were required to assemble this information covering 1993-94 and to publish it locally.

The commission has since processed the statistics collected by the councils and selected 19 representative indicators. These do not include rubbish collection, one of the few services that all councils apparently do well.

The tables will be released annually and will include year-on-year comparisons, highlighting changes in performance.

Leading article, page 19

EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

KEY	
A	% of 3 and 4-year-olds with a school place
B	expenditure on primary school pupils (£ per pupil)
C	expenditure on secondary school pupils (£ per pupil)
D	% special needs reports issued within 6 months
E	% elderly helped to live at home
F	% elderly in residential care
G	% adults under 65 recognised as physically disabled
H	% physically disabled people given help to live at home
I	night shifts for carers (per 1000 adults per
J	Total expenditure by authority (per head of pop)

LONDON BOROUGH										
INNER LONDON	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
City of London	32	2005	2214	48	32	4.34	2.55	6.57	32	1088
Greenwich	60	1917	2236	14	15	2.96	2.54	4.35	57	994
Hackney	60	1917	2236	14	15	2.96	2.54	4.35	57	994
Islington	60	1917	2236	14	15	2.96	2.54	4.35	57	994
Kensington & Chelsea	60	1917	2236	14	15	2.96	2.54	4.35	57	994
Lambeth	60	1917	2236	14	15	2.96	2.54	4.35	57	994
Levensham	60	1917	2236	14	15	2.96	2.54	4.35	57	994
Southwark	60	1917	2236	14	15	2.96	2.54	4.35	57	994
Tower Hamlets	60	1917	2236	14	15	2.96	2.54	4.35	57	994
Wandsworth	60	1917	2236	14	15	2.96	2.54	4.35	57	994
Westminster	60	1917	2236	14	15	2.96	2.54	4.35	57	994
OUTER LONDON	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
Barnet	70	1749	2235	22	22	3.40	2.39	8.10	65	770
Barnet & Dog	70	1749	2235	22	22	3.40	2.39	8.10	65	770
Barnet	70	1749	2235	22	22	3.40	2.39	8.10	65	770
Barnet	70	1749	2235	22	22	3.40	2.39	8.10	65	770
Barnet	70	1749	2235	22	22	3.40	2.39	8.10	65	770

ENGLISH COUNTIES										
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	
Avon	44	1595	2258	11	10	2.00	1.95	10.39	44	582
Berkshire	44	1595	2258	11	10	2.00	1.95	10.39	44	582
Berkshire	44	1595	2258	11	10	2.00	1.95	10.39	44	582
Berkshire	44	1595	2258	11	10	2.00	1.95	10.39	44	582
Berkshire	44	1595	2258	11	10	2.00	1.95	10.39	44	582

METROPOLITAN AUTHORITIES										
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	
Greater Manchester	59	1599	2258	11	10	2.00	1.95	10.39	44	582
Greater Manchester	59	1599	2258	11	10	2.00	1.95	10.39	44	582
Greater Manchester	59	1599	2258	11	10	2.00	1.95	10.39	44	582
Greater Manchester	59	1599	2258	11	10	2.00	1.95	10.39	44	582
Greater Manchester	59	1599	2258	11	10	2.00	1.95	10.39	44	582

SOUTH YORKSHIRE										
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	
South Yorkshire	73	1513	2227	15	21	2.80	3.96	4.80	69	828
South Yorkshire	73	1513	2227	15	21	2.80	3.96	4.80	69	828
South Yorkshire	73	1513	2227	15	21	2.80	3.96	4.80	69	828
South Yorkshire	73	1513	2227	15	21	2.80	3.96	4.80	69	828
South Yorkshire	73	1513	2227	15	21	2.80	3.96	4.80	69	828

WELSH COUNTIES										
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	
Wales	92	1387	2243	30	14	5.70	4.88	1.23	24	634
Wales	92	1387	2243	30	14	5.70	4.88	1.23	24	634
Wales	92	1387	2243	30	14	5.70	4.88	1.23	24	634
Wales	92	1387	2243	30	14	5.70	4.88	1.23	24	634
Wales	92	1387	2243	30	14	5.70	4.88	1.23	24	634

HOUSING, BENEFITS, RECYCLING, PLANNING AND FINANCE

KEY	
K	Average time taken to relet dwellings (weeks)
L	% tenants over 13 weeks in arrears
M	Average weekly rent per dwelling (£)
N	% housing benefit claims processed in 14 days
O	% household waste recycled
P	% planning applications decided in 8 weeks
Q	Cost of collecting council tax per dwelling (£)
R	% budgeted council tax yield collected
S	Total expenditure by authority (£ per head of pop)

LONDON BOROUGH										
K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S		
INNER LONDON	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	
City of London	3	5.9	47.1	96	3	1.3	82	8	93	770
Greenwich	10	22.8	53.23	95	8.8	42	23	91	1088	
Hackney	9.7	20.4	42.12	96	3.9	7.9	34	101	984	
Islington	15.4	28	46.46	45	4.5	46	40	99	1034	
Kensington & Chelsea	12.8	15.2	48.65	38	2.9	32	40	102	1221	
Lambeth	15	34.4	41.27	32	3.2	65	61	1230		
Levensham	6.6	18	41.46	61	4.7	57	22	92	948	
Southwark	13.8	7.1	35.59	75	1.8	51	63	91	1413	
Tower Hamlets	8.4	10.5	38.44	79	2.8	68	19	92	915	
Wandsworth	6.5	10	38.06	78	6.8	67	25	91	1080	
Westminster	6.5	10	38.06	78	6.8	67	25	91	1080	
OUTER LONDON	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	
Barnet	7	4.8	30.93	83	1.3	82	8	93	770	
Barnet & Dog	5	2	30.5	90	4	83	18	102	886	
Barnet	5	2	30.5	90	4	83	18	102	886	
Barnet	5	2	30.5	90	4	83	18	102	886	
Barnet	5	2	30.5	90	4	83	18	102	886	

ENGLISH COUNTIES										
K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S		
Cumbria	5.5	2.9	28.07	78	3.3	74	10	100	91	
Derbyshire	3.2	2.6	34.4	72	1.2	84	12	95	120	
Derbyshire	3.2	2.6	34.4	72	1.2	84	12	95	120	
Derbyshire	3.2	2.6	34.4	72	1.2	84	12	95	120	
Derbyshire	3.2	2.6	34.4	72	1.2	84	12	95	120	

METROPOLITAN AUTHORITIES										
K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S		
Greater Manchester	5.5	2.5	37.17	87	4	86	20	97	87	
Greater Manchester	5.5	2.5	37.17	87	4	86	20	97	87	
Greater Manchester	5.5	2.5	37.17	87	4	86	20	97	87	
Greater Manchester	5.5	2.5	37.17	87	4	86	20	97	87	
Greater Manchester	5.5	2.5	37.17	87	4	86	20	97	87	

SOUTH WEST										
K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S		
Avon	2.8	2.7	37.72	91	15.1	40	20	91	77	
Avon	2.8	2.7	37.72	91	15.1	40	20	91	77	
Avon	2.8	2.7	37.72	91	15.1	40	20	91	77	
Avon	2.8	2.7	37.72	91	15.1	40	20	91	77	
Avon	2.8	2.7	37.72	91	15.1	40	20	91	77	

METROPOLITAN AUTHORITIES										
K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S		
Greater Manchester	4.8	2.2	37.38	71	3.8	71	21	97	795	
Greater Manchester	4.8	2.2	37.38	71	3.8	71	21	97	795	
Greater Manchester	4.8	2.2	37.38	71	3.8	71	21	97	795	
Greater Manchester	4.8	2.2	37.38	71	3.8	71	21	97	795	
Greater Manchester	4.8	2.2	37.38	71	3.8	71	21	97	795	

MIDLANDS										
DERBYSHIRE										
Derby Valley	2.4	1.5	24.08	82	2.9	80	17	97	77	
Chatterfield	2.2	2	23.57	89	3.3	80	17	97	77	
Chatterfield	2.4	1	24.2	89	2.9	79	13	97	79	
Chatterfield	1.8	2	26.81	89	3.3	80	17	97	77	
Erewash	3.4	1.3	25.3	86	1.6	87	10	97	79	
High Peak	7.2	1.5	25.96	84	3	74	12	94	85	
North East Derbyshire	2.4	1.5	24.08	82	2.9	80	17	97	77	
South Derbyshire	4.6	3.0	27.56	87	1.1	80	16	96	78	
Derbyshire Dales	1.8	1.9	26.62	89	5.5	81	14	99	90	
LEICESTERSHIRE										
Blaby	2.1	1.7	22.93	94	2.8	79	18	96	85	
Charnwood	4.4	3.1	25.43	81	4.1	82	18	95	78	
Leicester	6.6	1.1	23.4	93	3.2	77	17	95	81	
Hinkley & Bosworth	4	2.8	25.79	79	3.3	81	15	98	84	
Leicester	6.5	6.5	25.79	79	3.3	81	15	98	84	
Melford	1.4	1.4	26.67	49	4.9	85	17	97	81	
W.L. Leicestershire	8.2	2.8	26.61	88	2.9	86	19	98	79	
Leicester & Wigston	3.6	8	24.78	80	5.3	84	16	92	81	
Rutland	3	3.6	36.51	67	5.1	80	13	100	95	
LINCOLNSHIRE										
Lincoln	1.4	2.2	26.82	80	2	81	14	89	108	
Boston	4	1.7	30.92	82	2	86	18	97	104	
Brigg	5.7	7.9	27.9	87	27	11.6	71	18	95	108
North Kesteven	4.3	4.3	26.85	88	3	95	13	98	81	
North Kesteven	4.2	4.2	25.18	81	2.1	84	17	100	100	
South Kesteven	2.7	1.8	26.54	98	4	98	18	96	81	
West Lindsey	6.5	2.2	27.47	83	2.1	66	28	98	86	
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE										
Corby	5.8	0.8	27.48	96	-	73	26	94	104	
Daventry	4.8	1.7	29.6	98	4.4	92	18	103	75	
Northamptonshire	4.8	1.7	29.6	98	4.4	92	18	103	75	
Kettering	1.8	0.6	25.86	80	2.6	64	21	107	71	
Northampton	15.4	7.3	31.25	0	17.2	82	15	103	103	
Northampton	3.1	1.3	32.61	88	2.8	79	32	99	75	
Wellingborough	5.8	0.2	27.57	89	5.3	91	12	101	13	
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE										
Ashfield	6.4	2.1	28.06	49	0.3	92	17	98	73	
Beeston	5.7	4.8	28.16	40	2	79	12	96	79	
Broxtowe	5.7	4.8	28.16	40	2	79	12	96	79	
Gedling	6	1	25.26	82	4.7	89	17	98	77	
Mansfield	5.78	2.5	25.83	38	3.7	80	20	90	100	
Nottingham & Sherwood	7.7	7.7	25.83	38	3.7	80	20	90	100	
Nottingham	7.7	7.7	25.83	38	3.7	80	20	90	100	
Rushcliffe	5.4	7.7	25.74	32	3.3	78	13	98	89	
SHROPSHIRE										
Bridgnorth	6.5	0.3	31.41	85	9	83	17	100	95	
North Shropshire	2.4	1.8	27.75	71	5	88	17	98	96	
Oswestry	8	0.7	27.83	86	2.6	85	20	98	85	
Shropshire & A. & B. Shropshire	8	0.7	27.83	86	2.6	85	20	98	85	



FILM EXTRA page 34
One hundred years ago today, this man began British cinema. Why aren't we celebrating?

ARTS

OPERA page 35
Shostakovich's satirical and tuneful musical, Cheryomushki, enjoys another London outing



CINEMA: Geoff Brown looks for a reason for Sean Connery's involvement in *Just Cause*, and decides it must be golf

Sean of any credibility

Having Sean Connery in your film is supposed to be an asset. He lends it strength, pawkiness, humour, and some box-office clout. *Just Cause*, however, is so ill-conceived that the asset is swiftly stripped. As soon as we glimpse our man on the podium at Harvard, re-avowing against capital punishment in his neat white beard, grey jacket and half-moon specs, something appears wrong. We expect Connery in the jungle, the desert or the big city's streets, not academia.

Since Connery serves as the film's executive producer, he can scarcely have walked into the script blind. In its early stages, you can see what might have attracted him — apart, perhaps, from the numerous golf courses in Florida, where the bulk of Arne Glimcher's film was shot. The Harvard law professor comes to the Everglades to investigate the case of a convict awaiting the electric chair for a young girl's nasty murder.

"Every now and then you've got to get a little bloody," Connery's wife, Kate Capshaw, urges him. So it turns out. As the East Coast liberal clashes with small-town minds, off comes the tie, out comes the sun hat. Instead of law books, he wrestles with troublesome individuals like Laurence Fishburne, a local detective in no mood to see an old case re-opened. Blair Underwood, the prisoner who confessed to the crime after extreme coercion, and Ed Harris, a Death Row neighbour fond of biblical quotes, lurid cell murals, and screaming his shaved head off.

"You've got the trials of Job ahead of you, mister," Harris advises our hero. Connery's agony, however, pales beside ours as we watch a passable investigative thriller spiral into an absurd, ineffectual melodrama. Critics have been asked to keep tight-lipped over the plot twists, "out of consideration for your fellow viewers". My pleasure. Warner Bros, although the film-makers show scant consideration themselves by wasting Connery on an unsuitable

Just Cause
Warner West End, 15, 102 mins
Sean Connery gets lost in the Everglades
Fiorile
MGM Tottenham Court Road, 12, 118 mins
Fragrant epic from the Taviani brothers
Hoop Dreams
MGM Shaftesbury Ave, 15, 170 mins
Marvelously absorbing documentary
Crooklyn
MGM Trocadero, 12, 114 mins
Spike Lee's rowdy return to his own childhood

role, and selling us cheap, stale goods.

The Taviani brothers, Paolo and Vittorio, tread a special path in Italian cinema. At best, they spin stories, fables almost, rich in moral and political lessons. Leftist in politics, they take a despairing view of industry and the march of greed, but keep enough love in their hearts to bestow on their flawed fellow men.

Fiorile, completed in 1993, never scales the heights reached in the early 1980s in *The Night of San Lorenzo* and *Kaos*. But a mildly disappointing Taviani film is better than a good one by most other directors; and this epic, century-hopping account of a blighted family bequeathed like no other film this week.

Two youngsters travel from Paris with their parents for a first visit to their grandfather in Tuscany. Their surname is Benedetti — "the blessed ones" — although the locals prefer Maledetti, "the cursed". As the father starts explaining why, the camera drifts off the road to discover Napoleon's advancing soldiers. One camera movement links the present and past, and the story echoes down the generations.

A peasant girl, Elisabetta Benedetti, falls for Jean, a French lieutenant in charge of

the army coffers. When her greedy brother steals his gold coins, Jean is shot for the crime. The gold multiplies: when we next meet the Benedettis, in 1903, they feast in their villa like Medicis. But wealth carries a price. By 1944, and the Partisan struggle, the family is still dogged by bad consciences, thwarted love and violent deaths.

The stories' threads may be complex, but the presentation is always lucid. Actors Galatea Ranzi, Claudio Bigagli and Michael Varian appear in multiple roles to forge connections between the generations. Nor are the contemporary characters left out of the family pattern. The young daughter places a flower behind her ear in honour of Fiorile — Jean's name for her peasant lover, after the revolutionary calendar name for May. And the last scenes — when the children encounter their hermit grandfather and a dummy of Jean, stored in the farmhouse attic — carry the greatest emotional charge of all.

Spectacular visual displays, though, are absent. The beauties of Tuscany are enough for the Tavianis; this sombre story of humanity versus greed needs no fireworks to point its moral. Balm indeed after *Just Cause*.

Since my interest in sport hovers around zero, prospects for happiness might be thought limited during a three-hour American documentary about basketball. But *Hoop Dreams* is not your conventional documentary. The style does nothing to break the mould: film-makers Steve James, Fred Marx and Peter Gilbert opt for the fly on the wall's viewpoint, with straight-to-camera interviews interspersed. It is the substance that matters: a voyage through American life as experienced by two inner-city kids ignited by the dream of escaping the ghetto and playing basketball professionally.

The cameras stayed close to the boys and their families for more than four years, and we share the intimate experience. Both Arthur Agee and William Gates begin at 14 with partial basketball scholarships to a



Sean Connery, playing a law professor investigating a murder, makes a stunning discovery — he should not have agreed to appear in *Just Cause*

private Chicago school. Then life plays its tricks: income crises, torn ligaments, family break-ups, poor grades, bullying coaches who squeeze the fun from the game, pressure from predatory university scouts anxious to scoop up the top talent. Expectations are not fulfilled; at 18, both boys have lost their starry eyes, although the dream still lives inside one of them.

Hoop Dreams has the crackle and density of that elusive beast, the Great American Novel. Tensions of inner-city life are explored without those easy stereotypes of drugs and violence. Colourful characters crowd the scenes, and you take them to your heart: William, the quiet one with a bad knee, a rich sponsor, and the dark shadow of an elder brother who frittered away his own chances; Arthur, the frisky underdog, so aimless in his school work that he writes an essay on a random topic, the life cycle of the butterfly.

No recent fiction film has captured America's heartbeat so well.

Certainly not *Crooklyn*, Spike Lee's first film since the over-ambitious *Malcolm X*. Lee escorts us back to the 1970s and a partly autobiographical Brooklyn childhood, where five kids make mother's life hell. For the first 45 minutes, the film drifts through rowdy, domestic scenes, before stabilising round the sole daughter, 10-year-old Troy, and the mother (Alfre Woodard) who tries to keep order.

Place *Crooklyn* next to *Hoop Dreams*, however, and its family portrait seems both rose-tinted and melodramatic. Matters are not helped by Lee's decision to shoot Troy's visit to an aunt through the elongating anamorphic lens. The goal was a subjective impression of a world out of kilter; the result is eye strain.

More cinema on page 34

"HUGELY ENTERTAINING"

"A towering, Oscar - worthy performance"

"LIKE 'AMADEUS', GOOD ENTERTAINMENT, BEAUTIFULLY FILMED, SUMPTUOUS SETTINGS"

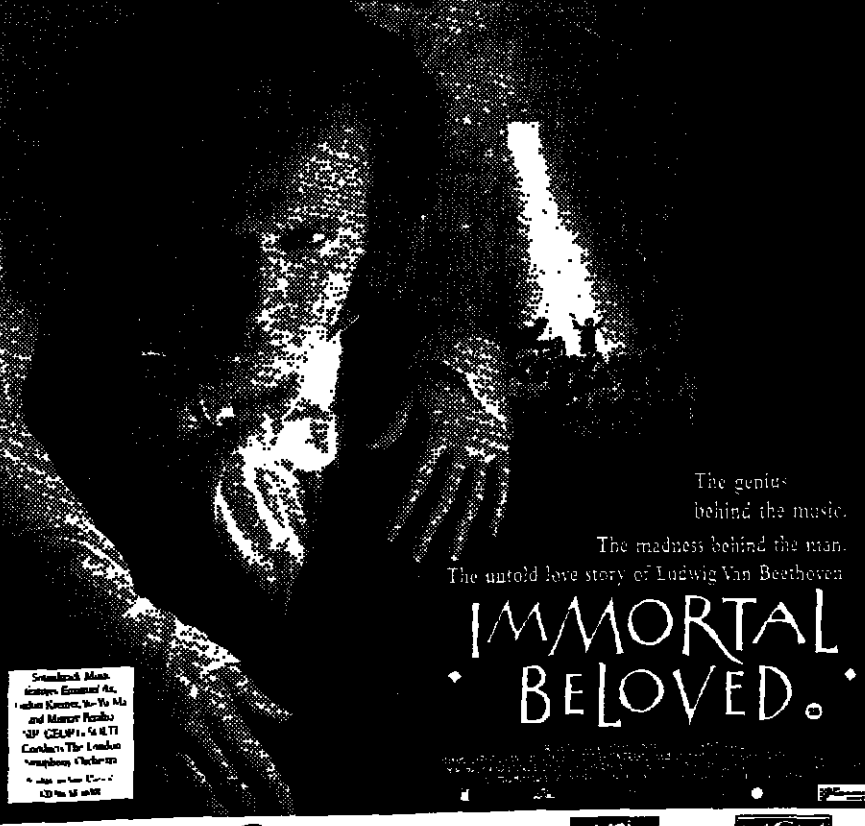
"AN EXTRAORDINARY PERFORMANCE"

"Provocative, intriguing and engrossing"

"BEAUTIFULLY ACTED". "OLDMAN IS EXCELLENT".

"This film exerts hypnotic power"

GARY OLDMAN



IMMORTAL BELOVED
NOW SHOWING
AND AT IMPORTANT CINEMAS NATIONWIDE FROM TOMORROW

Free entrance to the theatre club

RADIO: Peter Barnard tunes into the varied tales of mystery and imagination told after lunch

Theatrical experiences are traditionally a night activity, involving long walks from lethal car parks in order to sit behind the tallest person in the auditorium and long for the interval drink that will last one sip before being elbowed on to the foyer carpet. Theatrical experiences are a drama, and never mind the drama on stage.

But radio has made drama an afternoon experience, or at least one which is widely available in the afternoon. Devoid of the aforementioned inconveniences, it takes the imagination on journeys deep into the past or sideways into the present.

There have been two good examples this week, one a serial and one a single play. The serial is *The Tree of Liberty* (Radio 4), a four-part serial on Mondays set in revolutionary France. Its theme is the difficulties of policing a state in upheaval. David Calder and Brian Hibbard play the leads in performances that do full justice to writing (by Nigel Baldwin) that uses the rhythm of good dialogue to carry the plot. The stories are essentially self-contained, which is why I risk recommending the serial halfway through, and they raise issues that have a relevance for the modern audi-

ence. Monday's made a tantalising tale out of a story about a doctor who is murdered: his son has an alibi, yet he confesses to the crime.

There was more direct relevance, at least in terms of modernity, in *Thirty Minute Theatre* on Tuesday (Radio 4). Here I must declare a pecuniary interest for *A Home Truth* was written by my colleague Lynne Truss, who bought me a drink some three years ago and rushed off to feed a cat before I could buy her one. Or perhaps she had thought of a plot twist for *A Home Truth*. The story was about Belinda, a somewhat distracted writer retreating ever higher into her house to get away from the telephone. Her more worldly responsibilities are taken over by Linda, who becomes ever more a substitute Belinda, even to becoming pregnant by Belinda's husband and standing in for Belinda during pretentious literary discussions on *The Late Show* ("Does anyone watch this stuff?").

The plot partly echoes a tale by Hans Christian Andersen about a man whose shadow takes on a separate persona, so perhaps we are dealing here with two sides of the same person. But that sounds much too complicated for afternoon radio; try *The Late Show*.

"THE MADNESS OF KING GEORGE is already the outstanding British film of the year and will almost certainly remain so. RUSH TO SEE IT."

JOHN HAWTHORNE
HELEN MIRREN
IAN HOLM

"His Majesty was all powerful and all knowing. But he wasn't quite all there."



"Hawthorne's performance is colossal. IT'S A FLAWLESS TRIUMPH"

"ONE OF THE TRIUMPHS OF THE YEAR!"

THE MADNESS OF KING GEORGE

Now Showing
Belfast MGM
Birmingham MGM
Birmingham Showcase
Bournemouth Odeon
Brighton MGM (Marine)
Brighton Odeon
Bristol Odeon
Bristol Showcase
Bury Warner
Cardiff Odeon
Clydebank UCI
Coventry Odeon
Coventry Showcase
Derry Strand
Dulwich Showcase
East Kilbride UCI
Edinburgh Cameo
Edinburgh UCI
Gateshead UCI
Glasgow Odeon
Leeds Odeon
Leeds Showcase
Liverpool MGM
Liverpool Showcase
Manchester Odeon
Manchester Showcase
Newcastle Odeon
Newcastle Warner
Nottingham Odeon
Nottingham Showcase
Peterborough Showcase
Poole UCI
Salford Quays MGM
Salford Odeon
Sheffield Odeon
Sheffield UCI
Sheffield Warner
Southampton MGM (Ocean Village)
Stockport MGM
Stockton Showcase
Swansea UCI
Tallaght UCI
Warrington UCI
Yorkgate (Belfast) Movie House

LONDON

FIRST NIGHT FOR THE RSC Ian Judge's delightful production of *Twelfth Night*, from last year's Stratford, has been revived at the Royal Shakespeare Company's new home, the Swan Theatre, on the banks of the River Sever. The production is a collaboration between the RSC and the Royal National Theatre. It is a collaboration between the RSC and the Royal National Theatre. It is a collaboration between the RSC and the Royal National Theatre.

IF WE ARE WOMEN Richard O'Sullivan's production of *Twelfth Night*, from last year's Stratford, has been revived at the Royal Shakespeare Company's new home, the Swan Theatre, on the banks of the River Sever. The production is a collaboration between the RSC and the Royal National Theatre. It is a collaboration between the RSC and the Royal National Theatre.

PREMIERES AT ST JOHN'S Ronald Corp conducts the new London Orchestra and Children's Choir for the first London performance of his own Four Ecumenical Lyrics and the world premiere of *Ecumenical Lyrics* by Ronald Corp.

IN THE BLUE BALL Paul Godfrey, author of *Once in a While the Odd Thing Happens*, directs his new play, an investigation into the experience of *Space*, as revealed to the first astronaut.

IN FRAISE OF LOVE Peter Bowles and Lisa Harrow in *Love*, a play about a woman's search for love and the discovery of her own strength.

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TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

Calendar Tonight's programme also includes works by Martin and Thomas. St John's, Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061). Tonight, 7.30pm

ELSEWHERE

BRISTOL The Bernard Roberts trio launches a three-day *Simply Schubert* series this afternoon with a programme of *Requiem* in E flat and *Trio* in B flat.

EDINBURGH St Charles Mackerras and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra programme of favourite works from J.C. Bach, Mozart and Schubert's *Hall*. Clerk Street (0131-668 2018). Tonight, 7.45pm

HIGH WYCOMBE Michael Frayn's popular *Notepad* Off, the ingenious comedy that makes a farce from a farce, stars Michael Frayn, Michael Cadden and Patrick Cargill. A sticky afternoon piece of silliness. Wycombe Swan, St Mary Street (0494 512000). Tonight-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. Next stop, Guildford (01483 440000). April 10-15

STRAFFORD UPON AVON The Royal Shakespeare Theatre's new season opens with *Romeo and Juliet*. Lucy Whitby and John Wood play the doomed youngsters.

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican, Impressionism in Britain (0171-636 4141). British Museum: *Byzantine Treasures from British Collections* (0171-636 1555). Courtyard, Frank Dobson, Sculpture 1915-1954 (0171-636 2526).

Hayward, Yves Klein (0171-328 3144). National Gallery: *Spanish Art from Velázquez to Picasso* (0171-636 3321). National Portrait Gallery: *Richard Aronson* (0171-308 0055).

Royal Academy: Nicolas Poussin (0171-438 7438). Tate: *William de Kooning* (0171-887 8000). V & A: *Imagery and Glass* (0171-333 4200). Whitechapel: *John Smith* (0171-522 7888).

UPPER UNDER John Godfrey's play, done by Hilary, is a comedy about a man's search for love and the discovery of his own strength.

THE WINTER GUEST Phyllis Law and San Thomas head Alan Rickman's sensitive directorial debut in *Shamrock*, the first play about love, survival, the price and joys of life.

LONG RUNNERS

Arcaide: Haymarket (0171-330 8800). **Buddy: Victoria Palace** (0171-434 1317). **Cats: New London** (0171-405 0072).

Copacabana: Prince of Wales (0171-438 3872). **Crash: New London** (0171-438 3872).

Don't Dress for Dinner: Duchess (0171-494 5070). **Grease: Dominion** (0171-416 4164).

My Night with Reg: Cottesloe (0171-330 8800). **My Night with Reg: Cottesloe** (0171-330 8800).

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We should be celebrating

FILM: Exactly 100 years ago, British cinema was born. David Robinson asks why the anniversary has been ignored

One hundred years ago today two Londoners, Robert William Paul and Birt Acres, filmed the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race — or at least the 40 seconds or so that they could get on to the 50 feet of film their camera held. This was the birth of British cinematography, and the world's first film of a news event.

Paul was a 25-year-old scientific instrument-maker with his own workshop in Hutton Garden. Late in 1894 he was approached by two Greeks who asked him to make them some counterparts of Edison's Kinetoscope — the first commercial motion-picture device using 35mm film of the format still employed today. In the Kinetoscope, however, the picture was not projected on a screen, but viewed as a peepshow.

Discovering that Edison had neglected to patent the Kinetoscope in Britain, Paul at once began energetic production of his own version, which quickly found a brisk market in France as well as in Britain. In order to supply purchasers with films, however, he found himself faced with the necessity of inventing a film camera to make them. He entered into partnership with an inventive photographer, Birt Acres, and by March 29 1895 they had perfected a camera and taken their first experimental film, outside the door of Acres home, Clovelly Cottage, Barnes.

The Boat Race was the next day, and Acres went down to Putney to film the event. The resulting film, along with others, was shown throughout the summer in Kinetoscopes that Paul installed in the Empire of India Exhibition at Earls Court. At twopenny a look, it no doubt brought back a nice profit.

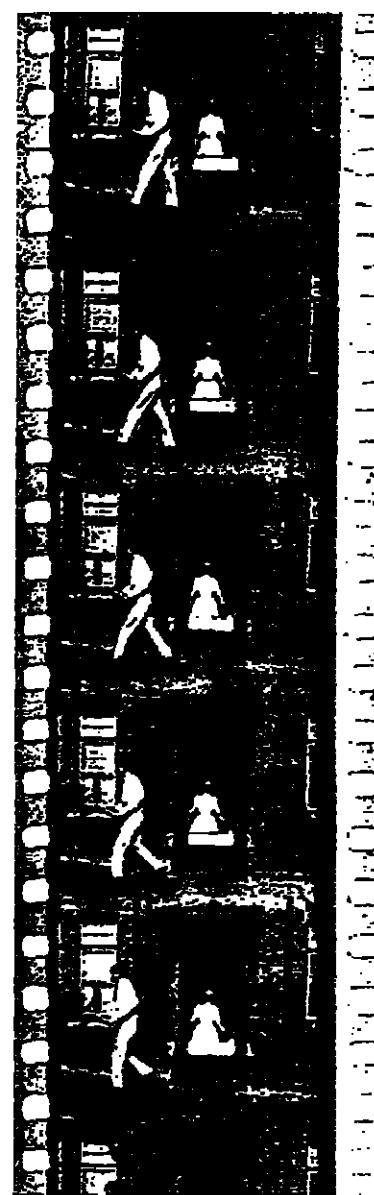
Soon after, Paul and Acres quarrelled and parted, thereafter competing to be first to produce a projector so that their moving pictures might be seen on a screen rather than in peepshows. Acres won, presenting the first-ever screen performance of films in this country on January 14 1896. Paul launched his "Theatrograph" on February 20 — the same day as the London premiere of the Lumière cinematograph. Acres shortly afterwards quit filmmaking, but Paul went on to become the acknowledged founder of the British cinema industry.

It might be supposed that a centenary as auspicious as the filming of the Boat Race would merit a plaque at Putney or the site of Paul's premises in Hutton Garden, or at least a mention on the *One O'Clock News*; but the occasion is in danger of passing

unnoticed. This is all the more ironic since, ten days ago, British press and television gave quite frenzied coverage to French celebrations of the centenary of the day when Louis Lumière is supposed to have shot his first film.

The irony is compounded by growing suspicions that the French may actually have celebrated the wrong day. A recently discovered letter from fellow inventor Georges Demeny to Lumière, dated March 19 1895 — the very day when Lumière is supposed to have been in Lyons filming "Workers Leaving the Lumière Factory" — says "since you are currently in Paris..."

Even allowing for such cavalier treatment of dates, we British might take example from French cultural chauvinism in celebrating the cinema centenary. The Lyons commemoration earned worldwide publicity. In Paris a year-long programme of major exhibitions began with the Pompidou Centre's massive winter show dedicated to Pathé, the cinema's first great industrial empire. The Cinémaèque fran-



Left: A fragment of the first Kinetoscope film made in Britain, shot by Robert William Paul and Birt Acres at Acres's home on March 29, 1895 — the day before they filmed the Boat Race. Right: Paul with his camera

caise has currently an exhibition devoted to the rival industrial empire of Gaumont. At the Musée Carnavalet, "Paris Grand-Ecran" recalls a hundred years of Parisian movie theatres. Last Thursday saw the opening of an exhibition at La Monnaie de Paris, "L'Art et le Cinéma", which vividly and imaginatively traces the interconnections between cinema and 20th-century art, from Futurism and Dada, through the treasures of the Cinémaèque.

Other exhibitions are scheduled at the Musée d'Orsay and l'Espace Electronique. And the French celebrations will culminate on December 28, the anniversary of the Lumière brothers' first shows for a paying public at the Grand Café, Boulevard des Capucines.

The Germans have their own claim to priority in cinema history, since the brothers Max and Emil Skladanowsky gave their first film shows to a paying public at the Wintergarten, Berlin on November 1 1895 — eight weeks before the Lumière brothers. The Acres and Paul premieres are ignored. A shade more chauvinism would be in order.

Indeed Cinema 100 seems generally to be paying excessive tribute to the French. The latest issue of its bulletin (while giving due credit to the Museum of the Moving Image's current series of shows, "Countdown to Cinema") only begins its list of "Key first screening dates" with the Lumière Paris show on December 28 1895. The Acres and Paul premieres are ignored. A shade more chauvinism would be in order.

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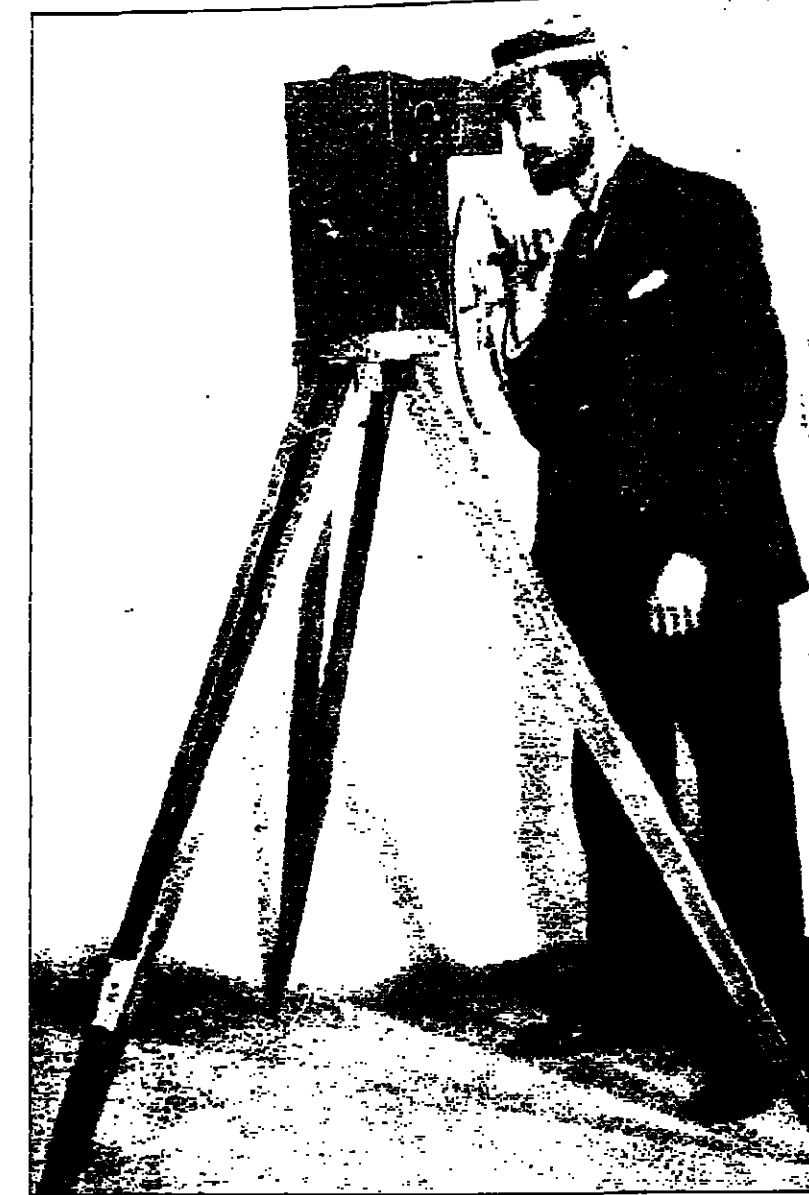
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Left: A fragment of the first Kinetoscope film made in Britain, shot by Robert William Paul and Birt Acres at Acres's home on March 29, 1895 — the day before they filmed the Boat Race. Right: Paul with his camera

caise has currently an exhibition devoted to the rival industrial empire of Gaumont. At the Musée Carnavalet, "Paris Grand-Ecran" recalls a hundred years of Parisian movie theatres. Last Thursday saw the opening of an exhibition at La Monnaie de Paris, "L'Art et le Cinéma", which vividly and imaginatively traces the interconnections between cinema and 20th-century art, from Futurism and Dada, through the treasures of the Cinémaèque.

Other exhibitions are scheduled at the Musée d'Orsay and l'Espace Electronique. And the French celebrations will culminate on December 28, the anniversary of the Lumière brothers' first shows for a paying public at the Grand Café, Boulevard des Capucines.

The Germans have their own claim to priority in cinema history, since the brothers Max and Emil Skladanowsky gave their first film shows to a paying public at the Wintergarten, Berlin on November 1 1895 — eight weeks before the Lumière brothers. The Acres and Paul premieres are ignored. A shade more chauvinism would be in order.

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CONCERT

Royal Dutch treat

Concertgebouw/
Chailly
Barbican

THE Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra has always had many fine qualities: strings with a rich sheen from top to bottom of the register; a well-rounded woodwind choir; a unity of ensemble which convinces you that every player knows every note not just of his or her own part but of the entire score. Those attributes were all on display last Tuesday.

Riccardo Chailly, the Royal Concertgebouw's chief conductor since 1988, tends to show a reliable pair of hands rather than any fiery extravagance. He brought to Richard Strauss's tone poem *Ein Heldenleben* at the end of this concert all the opulence of sonority one could ask for, all the clarity of balance which such dense scoring dictates. There was also some wonderfully poised solo violin playing from one of the orchestra's two joint leaders. But this piece needs an impetuous self-awareness which it here lacked.

That misgiving might be technically analysed and put down to minuscule shortcomings in departments such as dynamic contrast, shaping of phrase and intensity of tone quality. None of those things were lacking, however, in Beethoven's *Egmont Overture*, which opened the concert. Here Chailly and his band were alive to every tension, every turn of this militaristic drama.

To hear them play Beethoven in such a manner must have cheered the heart of Maria Joao Pires, whose account of the same composer's Third Piano Concerto, beautifully accompanied, was one of the most exquisite I have ever heard. Nothing was merely incidental: everything was weighted perfectly, coloured carefully and phrased with a sense of human breath so that one was compelled to hang on to every moment in dramatic, poetic or celebratory music alike. Pires is up there among the really great pianists of our own or any other time.

STEPHEN PETTITT

OPERA: A Shostakovich musical tame enough for Uncle Joe; a Handel curiosity; why *La Wally* should stay deadSong and dance: in Shostakovich's slight, tinkling musical comedy, *Cheryomushki*, the residents of Cherry Trees Estate must fight petty corruption to build their "magic garden" in a Moscow high-rise

Paradise in trouble

Cheryomushki
Lyric, Hammersmith

In his play *Master Class*, David Pownall imagines a confrontation between Stalin and Shostakovich. "Purge the misery," cries Uncle Joe, "change misery into delight." The great composer finds himself obsessively setting to music a crazy tale about tigers and lions while the great dictator enjoins him to embrace melody and shun atonal rubbish: "I don't want you taking it to pieces and kicking it around until it's unrecognisable."

But on the evidence of Pimlico Opera's production of Shostakovich's musical comedy, *Cheryomushki*, Stalin had no need to get exercised. The composer could write as mellifluously, if not as tunelessly, as Offenbach, Sullivan or Lehár. He could set a silly story to derivative music; and he did so even after Stalin's death. *Cheryomushki* was first performed in 1959, during the Khrushchev thaw, but you cannot believe this tiny, tinkling confection would have caused much offence in Stalin's bleak midwinter.

"Cheryomushki" apparently means Cherry Trees Estate, which is one of those vast apartment blocks that mar the Moscow skyline but at least provide a little cramped shelter for its huddled masses. There is a hint of nostalgia in the musical for those parts of the old city that

have succumbed to the bulldozers, but it is not to be taken too seriously. Sasha and Masha, for whom marriage means meeting during the day and sleeping in separate dorms at night, regard Cheryomushki as a potential paradise. So do the supporting characters, who include a feisty woman construction worker called Lusya, a perky explosives expert called Boris and the vampyish Vava and her city-slicker spouse, Drebyednyetsov.

These last two provide what little conflict the evening possesses, for they are surreptitiously in cahoots with the estate manager, Barabashkin. Walls are being knocked down and the two-room flats meant for our heroes transformed into a four-room one for the villains. But before this wrinkle can become a knot, Drebyednyetsov is sacked, presumably by wise city fathers off-stage, and the cast is left to go on building its "magic garden" and singing mindless ditties.

Both David Pountney, who adapted the original libretto, and Gerard McBurney, who re-orchestrated the music, suggest in the programme that there is something

gently subversive about Shostakovich's contribution. If so, it is on a par with the insolence of the journalist in *Beyond the Fringe* who boasted of thinking rebellious thoughts about Lord Beaverbrook while slavishly obeying him. To write satirically of housing problems and the corruption of minor functionaries was permissible in the old Soviet Union and Shostakovich embellishes the story with nothing that sounds Weillan, Sondheimian, or even slightly outré and odd.

If you learnt that Nietzsche wrote nursery rhymes, or Aeschylus limericks, you would doubtless be intrigued; but eventually you would have to ask if the rhymes and limericks were any good. It is the same here. Once you have stopped being surprised that Shostakovich wrote musical comedy at all, you are likely to appreciate why doing so made him "cringe with shame". Nor does he get much posthumous help from Lucy Barclay's direction, Paul Andrews's cardboard-cartoon décor or performers who sing very sweetly but (Janet Fullerlove's Vava the notable exception) act woodenly. Where is the imaginative originality, the sly satiric edge? Nowhere at all.

BENEDICT
NIGHTINGALE

Handel with sauce

Deidamia
Britten Theatre, RCM

THE London Handel Society's collaboration with the Royal Schools' Vocal Faculty — the former provides orchestra and impetus, the latter singers and theatre — usefully plugs gaps in the capital's operatic experience. Eighteen months ago they gave the rarely performed *Siroe*, and this week's offering as part of the London Handel Festival is *Deidamia*, the composer's last opera. It has not been seen here for nearly 30 years.

It is a curious work, with detached, ironic content typical of Handel's late period. The action is actually rather saucy, centering on Achilles hiding on the island of Scyros dressed as a girl in order to avoid call-up to the Trojan War — one of opera's first known draft-dodgers. He whistles away the time in dalliance with King Lymedee's daughter Deidamia, rather to the surprise of the latter's confidante, Nerea, who is at first unaware of the disguise.

Ulysses and *Phoenix*, Prince of Argos, arrive to flush Achilles out and establish that this girl is no girl by paying court to him/her, which upsets previously established amatory arrangements no end. Much of this takes place during a

and quiet in old age — Handel at his most urbane.

The score was conducted with good dramatic impulse by Denys Darlow, though some cuts were to be regretted — it is not a particularly long work. Mike Ashman's gently larky production had much charm, as did Bernard Culshaw's set (a sunny beach with a nice derangement of obelisks) and his time-travelling costumes.

Handel needs great singing, and my heart sank in a generally nervy and insecure first act, but the students pulled themselves together for the remaining two and delivered performances of pleasing accomplishment.

Particularly notable were Tobias Cole (*Ulysses*), a young Australian countertenor with bright, clear tone and admirable precision in passage-work, and Jeni Bern (*Deidamia*) and Margaret Kelly Cook (*Nerea*), both blessed with warm soprano tone and secure technique. Franziska Whelan made a tomboyish Achilles, and her grainy mezzo is as full of character as it is of promise. Repeat performances are to-night and tomorrow.

RODNEY MILNES

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THEATRE

Dinkie, dogged Diggers

PHOEBE is a dog whose arrival at the home of a couple of Australian dinkies (double income, no kids) upheaves their lives. This much was revealed in the press release, and my spirits fell.

But Michael Gow's short play turns out to be a good deal more rewarding than an exposure to Aussie dog-soppiness would have been. The dinkies, Helen and Fraser, have been doing very nicely in their respective jobs: both are seemingly out-front with their feelings and demands and congratulate one another on having eliminated conflict from their lives. In short, they are a couple of nervous breakdowns waiting to happen, and the pet they agree to look after is the catalyst for the calamity.

Inevitably, they become fond of the creature, enjoy taking her on long walks, and just as this change of heart is becoming a mite cloying, Fraser loses her. From this moment on their lives crack. As Fraser searches the local

Cate Blanchett and Colin Moody in *Sweet Phoebe*Sweet Phoebe
Warehouse, Croydon

pounds, his previously suppressed rage blasts into the open. As Helen scours Sydney's vast suburbia, she glimpses wretched and exotic lives hitherto unknown to her. The detailed reports of these sorts are acted out with a vehemence that seems at first too peculiar, so that I suspected Gow of using them as a travelogue on Sydney's various underbellies. But the vigour of the writing and the passion of Cate Blanchett's increasingly agitated re-enactments uncover something else. The Bohemian camaraderie and desperate loneliness she encounters — the house-

wife comically sidelining as a dominatrix, the sudden elation of singing *Only You* in a Korean restaurant — all show her the inadequacy of her clean and ordered existence. Blanchett's performance moves persuasively between puzzlement, nervous certainty and grief, strongly supported by Colin Moody, who charts Fraser's struggle through destructive fury to his tearful, closing appeal.

Arriving in Croydon only a week after ending its Australian run, this Sydney Theatre Company production is ably directed by the author and lit by Douglas Kuhn with a sensitive eye for the emotional power of murk. The dog is heard but not seen.

JEREMY KINGSTON

DANCE: Jasper Conran dresses to kill

An ugly duckling

Swan Lake
New Victoria
Theatre, Woking

decorated, just a dense expanse of purple blue columns and arches, outlined in gold, that is visually anaesthetising (although Odile's black tutu is truly stunning against it). Only in the two lakeside scenes does Conran evoke the tremors of a dangerous naturalism, of passions unleashed, with huge jagged rocks jutting over the lake of tears.

The producer, Galina

Sarnova, is also to blame for the superficial prettification. Although we are treated to a short prologue showing how the evil magician Von Rothbart was able to transform Princess Odette into a swan, Sarnova has given Siegfried little dramatic detail to develop his character in Act 1. Where are the moments that describe his disaffection and his rebellion? What motivates his love for Odette?

The ball scene is another missed opportunity: the Queen Mother's admonition to her son to choose a bride is only fleetingly etched, so that his betrayal of Odette lacks

Silliness reaches its peak

La Wally
Bloomsbury

THE question remains, is the rest of the opera really worth enduring for the famous *Diva* aria? Toscanini thought yes, and christened his poor daughter Wally; history so far has said no, and the opera has not been seen or heard of professionally in England since 1919.

No one has yet convinced me that it is not a thoroughly Silly Opera, interesting enough to cross-reference to Puccini (whom Catalani taught) and Wagner (whom he revered), but peopled with cardboard creatures.

University College Opera is justifiably praised for its 45 years of exhumations from *Halka* to *Hulda*. But when the orchestra (conducted by David Drummond) can scarcely get its fingers round the score, when adequate casting seems impossible, and when the director takes Catalani's melodrama at face, alpine-kitsch value, then it begins to feel suspiciously like a waste of an evening.

Julia Hollander, and her designer Taha Kharibian, have rigged up a diagonal of a ski slope, variously covered by white sheet, or alpine-meadow throw, trained a motley band of villagers to dance (if not to sing) round it, and given it an impressive fracturing for the last act (which also contains some of the best, icy music).

There is much clambering

ironic punch. Choreographically, too, this is the weakest scene, with national dances that have little ethnic flavour and even less vigour.

On top of all this, you have performers — on Tuesday night at least — unable to plumb the poetic depths of metaphor. Hans Nilsson as Prince Siegfried is a slender presence who wandered through his quest like a bewildered child. Simon Stewart was miscast as Von Rothbart.

By contrast, Daria Klimenova came across as thoroughly accomplished. Her Odette was effortlessly fluent, her Odile playfully wicked. But it all felt a bit like *Swan Lake* by numbers, even though conductor Alan Barker did his best to inject musical zest into a lifeless evening.

DEBRA CRAINE

laughter had its hero and heroine had the voices to suspend our disbelief for just one moment. Only Anne Gerbic's Walther (Wally's companion) and Margaret Hillier's Afra (Hagenbach's illegitimate daughter) seemed to have taken any care to nurture their voices.

La Wally herself (Elizabeth Hetherington), played as a deranged Ophelia in nightie and mountain boots, was under considerable strain. Donald Stephenson as Hagenbach was either ill, or having serious problems with his voice. I fear for his larynx, and hope things improve for Friday and Saturday.

HILARY FINCH

EN
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...excellent performances...
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GUINNESS

Nigella Lawson acclaims Camille Paglia's determination to wrest feminism back from those who want women to remain victims

Our sometime sister, now our queen

VAMPS & TRAMPS
By Camille Paglia
Viking, £17

It took Camille Paglia 20 years to get her first book, *Sexual Personae*, published: since then the feminist that other feminists love to hate has scarcely been out of the public prints. The glossy magazine and trashy scandal sheet are as much her forum as the scholarly paper. She is the don made over as diva, and how she exults in her role: on the cover of her new collection of essays, *Vamps & Tramps*, she is photographed, made up to the hilt and posturing, Emma Peel-like, on the cover. Inside, where it matters, she poses less. Her prose is unshakably honest, lucid and, as ever, a masterpiece of camp and vertiginous invective.

In fact, it's more than that. Those who seek to condemn her as a publicity-seeking nutcase — she's that, too — choose to ignore the slash-and-burn fierceness of her intelligence or the immense seriousness and capaciousness of her learning. Paglia herself might say that it is their ignorance that pointedly prevents their recognising the real thing when they see it. "Is there intellectual life in Ameri-

ca?" she asks. "At present, the answer is no." Writers who do not meet with political approval are edged out of the syllabus, "theory" has supplanted literature, and criticism has degenerated into moralistic text-trashing. But it is the "snide ahistoricism" of the women's movement that is Paglia's particular bugbear. "One of the great lies of women's studies," she writes, "is that European art history was written by white males and that feminism has conclusively rewritten that history by discovering and restoring major female artists excluded from the pantheon by patriarchal conspiracy. But European art history was not just written but

created by white males. We may lament the limitations placed on women's training and professional access in the past, but what is done cannot be undone... We will never get great art from women if their education exposes them only to the second-rate and if the idea of greatness itself is denied."

As a phallus-worshipping lesbian, Paglia's stance is probably unique. She is most famous for insisting that if women had ruled the world we would still be living in grass huts. She likes to tease: but she means it. In England, where we have a literary tradition of rudeness — viz. *Waugh père et fils* — Paglia's spectacular and vicious gibes may perhaps be less guiltily enjoyed. She is particularly unsparring of Andrea Dworkin, who "like Kate Millett has turned a garish history of mental instability into feminist grand opera". Dworkin, she sneers exultingly, "is a type that I recognise after 22



Paglia: don made over as diva

years of teaching. I call her The Girl with the Eternal Cold. This was the pudgy, clumsy, whiney child at summer camp who was always spilling her milk, dropping her lollipop in the dirt, getting a

cramp on the hike, a stone in her shoe, or a bee in her hair."

Paglia's aim is not merely to upset Dworkin, but to discredit her particular brand of "Infirmity Feminism", with its bedlam of belyachers, anorexics, bulimics, depressives, rape victims and incest survivors. Feminism has become a catch-all vegetable drawer where bunches of clingy sob-sisters can store their mouldy neuroses. And it is important that it be discredited, not from the perspective of the religious Right but by someone who is fired with the muscular egalitarianism of 1960s left-wing ideology.

Paglia is right to fight, kicking and screaming, against the offensively cramping view of women as perpetual victims. It is important to wrest feminism back from the puritans and philistines. Paglia's irritation with the women's movement is not merely with its sentimental idealisation of women

and demonisation of men, but with its failure to recognise the true oppressor: "It is nature, not patriarchal society, that puts motherhood and career in a collision course," she retorts.

"Fascist" she's called when she airs these views: the urge to deny and resist what she says goes to the guns. But the failure of feminism to be honest about the realities of motherhood is something that remains to be properly charted by those who with justification feel let down by it.

On the abortion issue Paglia is no less impatient. The feminist tag of "pro-choice" is, she scorns, pusillanimous, and reveals feminism's failure to accept the violence inherent in any termination of life. She herself is "fervently pro-abortion". Her rhetoric, blazingly honest, can hit with the shock of the true: "Unlike the feminist establishment, I recognise that abortion is killing. But slaughter

and harvest... are the record of human sustenance and survival for 10,000 years... Modern woman has become an agent of Darwinian triage. It is or should be ethically troubling: abortion pits the stronger against the weaker, and only one survives."

Paglia is possessed of a teacher's ability to convey passion. She is brilliant, queeny, cruel, boastful and egomaniacal. Nearly every essay — on a dizzying variety of subjects, from D.H. Lawrence to Hillary Clinton, taking in Kenneth Clarke, rape, pornography and Barbra Streisand — ripples with yapping self-regard. The appendix to the volume is in the form of a collection of cartoons featuring her and an itemisation of all articles mentioning her.

It should irritate and yet it exhilarates. She isn't someone you either love or hate: she's someone you love and hate. Reading Paglia, an American critic once said, is like drinking three espressos on the trot. She is the scholar as rapist. Camille Paglia is no woman of straw: her high opinion of herself is properly earned.

Take our money or open up the Box?

This is the story of the first two decades of competitive broadcasting in this country, told from a BBC vantage point. It opens in 1955 with Auntie's top brass stuffily declining invitations to the Guildhall banquet to launch Independent Television. It ends in 1974 with the Governors criticising BBC Television's general election coverage as wasteful and over-complicated; one of them, the poet Roy Fuller, described it as "a late Roman Empire symptom of decadence".

The book is organised chronologically, and much of the material illuminates episodes in national as well as in broadcasting history. The whole of the second chapter, for instance, is given over to the Suez crisis, during which for a time the very existence of the BBC appeared to be in question — Briggs draws a parallel with the threat posed to the infant BBC in Reith's day by the General Strike.

Another chapter is devoted to the controversial regime of Hugh Greene. "One of us," said a smug headline in *Ariel*, the BBC's staff magazine, when he took over at the beginning of the 1960s. Briggs is probably correct in saying that Greene retained the support of most of the staff throughout his tenure, although his policies and management style were by no means universally admired inside the corporation. What is indisput-

able is that as the years passed he offended a dangerously large number of politicians and a substantial section of public opinion. In particular it was not at all clever to allow himself to be cast so prominently in the demonology of Mary Whitehouse.

Asa Briggs's painstaking study of board minutes has allowed him to pinpoint, towards the end of the Greene era, a defining moment in the corporation's history. He correctly identifies "a landmark statement in the history of the BBC" —

an assertion by the Director-General that news was *sui generis*, "a branch of output unlike any other". It was this singling out of one aspect of broadcasting as different from all the rest which made possible

the emergence of news (and later that unsatisfactory circus-horse called news and current affairs) as a powerful — and disruptive — state within a state.

A touch wearily, Briggs reminds us that he is not the BBC's "official" historian. Only the most careless reader could have supposed that he was. He has, once again, written much more than an institutional history. He is concerned with organisation, but he is not less concerned with programmes; he is keenly interested in policy, but he is fascinated by people.

The style seems crisper than in earlier volumes. The narrative is controlled and assured, with telling

Ian McIntyre

COMPETITION
The History of
Broadcasting in the
United Kingdom
Volume V: 1955-1974
By Asa Briggs
OUP, £45



Dr Who and the Celestial Toymaker (1966), with William Hartnell (left) as the first Dr Who. It was broadcast in black and white

variations of pace and an effective use of light and shade. An important new source has been the BBC's Oral History Project, which Frank Gillard has been conducting since 1972: quite a number of the retired BBC panjandrums he has interviewed have waived the condition that their material should not be used in their lifetime.

The book benefits from a cleaner type-face than its predecessors (it was typeset, I notice, at Pondicherry, in southern India). There is also a useful — and highly entertaining — chronological table. Prepared by Leonard Miall, it runs to more than 60 pages and correlates BBC and ITV developments with events in the United Kingdom and in the world at large; it is good to be reminded that Khrushchev de-

nounced Stalin at the 20th Party Congress in 1956 only four days after *Muffin the Mule* had transferred from the BBC to ITV.

This is a publishing project which began with an invitation from the BBC in 1958, during the distinguished director-generalship of Sir Ian Jacob. Briggs, that is to say, has been at work on his *History of Broadcasting in the United Kingdom* for half as long again as it took Gibbon to chronicle the 13 centuries that separated the age of Trajan from the fall of Constantinople.

The achievement is monumental. This is the fifth volume to appear, and although it carries the story forward only until 1974, there will not be another. Briggs lays down

his pen with notable and dead-pan economy: "All else for this historian is round the corner." I imagine he shares the melancholy Gibbon felt at the knowledge that he had "taken an everlasting leave of an old and agreeable companion". But behind his discreet envoi I also detect considerable disappointment and possibly some indignation at the manner in which the BBC has resolved to give the quierus to this magisterial enterprise.

Briggs notes that the BBC archives, on which his history has been primarily based, remain incompletely catalogued and that the small *History of Broadcasting Unit*, which made possible the preparation of a standard history of the BBC, disappeared in 1992. His aim has been to provide a work of

reference for scholars outside the corporation as well as for the fast diminishing number of people inside it. "The BBC," he declares, "needs a memory bank." Without the kind of framework he has constructed over the years, scholars will find the writing of further monographs well-nigh impossible.

The governors of the BBC should not be misled by Lord Briggs's good manners. They appear at the moment to believe that the Huxley/Birt "reforms" have done the trick, and that in the matter of next year's Charter renewal they are home and dry. Unless they show signs of remembering that the archives are an important national resource of which they are the trustees, they deserve an unpleasant surprise.

The Europe of the functionaries

Bruce Anderson

JEAN MONNET
First Statesman of
Interdependence
By François Duchêne
Norton, £22

JACQUES DELORS
and European Integration
By George Ross
Polity Press, £45

Gaullists, but he did play a key role in co-ordinating the Allied supply effort during the First World War. At the end, Britain rewarded him with an honorary knighthood.

In the late 1930s, he realised that France was in peril because her air force was wholly unequal to the Luftwaffe, so he reactivated his supply network. On the eve of the war and in its early months, he threw all his energies into trying to buy warplanes in America. But he was frustrated both by the dilatoriness of French politics and by the constraints which neutrality imposed on Roosevelt. Finally, the *Blitzkrieg* put an end to his efforts.

He then played a crucial role in mediating between Roosevelt and de Gaulle. De Gaulle could see little merit in this civil servant who was too friendly with foreigners and who insisted on discussing economics at the dinner table. Monnet was more generous. He realised early on that de Gaulle's exalted estimate of his own importance was justified. From then on, he worked to protect the general from the Americans, and from himself. There was little gratitude.

This is all a splendid story, but alas, François Duchêne is incapable of telling it. His prose lacks any animation; every sentence is covered with a thin film of dust. It is clear that he understands the importance and the drama of the events he is narrating, and his judgment is sound. He can think and feel history; what a pity that he cannot write it.

De Gaulle and Monnet would make a fascinating study on the theme of Joan of Arc versus Père Goriot: two aspects of the eternal France. Their relations remained tense in the postwar era. Although he was in no sense anti-American, and endorsed Churchill's concept of concentric circles, Monnet believed in a European community, including Britain, as a counterweight to the United States. He also refused to concede the British any special status. We should take our

place in Europe on equal terms, and not as one of the Big Three, condescending to the others. In this, Monnet's grasp of postwar geopolitics was shrewder than Churchill's, but unacceptable to de Gaulle. Monnet, who deplored the Gaullist approach to Europe, was furious when the general vetoed British membership.

At that stage, the man of destiny seemed to have defeated the *fonctionnaire*. But that was only in the short run. In the quarter of the century since de Gaulle's departure, French policy towards Europe has been run on Monnet's lines much more than on Gaullist ones. The tortoise has a clear lead over the hare.

Which brings us to another *fonctionnaire*, Jacques Delors. George Ross has assembled some fascinating material in his account of the Delors *Cabinet* in operation. I defy all but the most fanatical British Europhile to read it without recoiling, for it is a study of a political culture which is both alien and threatening. There is one note of comfort. Ross is convinced that Maastricht was a defeat for the federalists and that, with enlargement, the Monnet vision of a Europe evolving towards supra-nationality is no longer sustainable. The future lies inevitably with a Europe of variable geometry.

Ross's book is indispensable for anyone concerned with the politics of Europe: it is also full of anecdotes and apocryphs. But the writing style has all the freshness of a week-old baguette. Why is it that devotees of the European ideal produce prose that would do just about as well for a memorandum on paperclips?

Last gasp of the café culture

Edward Marriot

A NEW GRAND TOUR
By Godfrey Hodgson
Viking, £16

ONCE, the Grand Tour of Europe was undertaken only by a handful of well-connected young men wishing to polish their education. And it was an adventure — when Robert Byron and Richard Burton visited Greece and Arabia, they risked more than their travellers' cheques. Now the slide into mass tourism seems unstoppable. Ever since Thomas Cook began his tours in the mid-19th century, the sights have gradually become obscured by the volume of people who visit them. The Acropolis in Athens is now closed because of the erosion caused by tourists' feet.

Clearly, says Godfrey Hodgson, a "New Grand Tour" is required. The tourist should look deeper into the culture and influences that have created Europe's cities. "By exploring a new past the traveller gives himself a new future," he writes.

Hodgson, a former foreign editor, has created a work of impressive research, which tells the stories of seven cities: London, Rome, Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Prague and St Petersburg. He has an eye for the telling detail, such as the number of pubs in London in 1890 — a staggering 9,000. He sketches the lives of the cities through their most striking inhabitants — Fyodor Dostoevsky in St Petersburg, Albert Einstein in Berlin, Gustav Mahler in Vienna.

He reminds us, too, of the grim past. How illuminating to know that, in St Petersburg during the 900 days' siege at the hands of the Nazis, some people turned cannibal,

selling human flesh in the market; or to see Vienna in its historical context, as a fortress city, barricaded at the edge of Europe, against the Continent's most fearsome enemy — the Turk.

Hodgson paints a broad picture of a Europe becoming daily more lost — of cities whose culture and history is suffocating under high-rise car parks and office blocks. Technology, with its video recorders, stereos and home computers, is the enemy of the city. If you can communicate over the Internet, why go to cafes? The future looks bleak. This is Hodgson's polemical message, and it is the book's strongest point.

For the modern European tourist, the book would make a valuable and diverting companion. As a guide for the armchair traveller, however, *A New Grand Tour* is altogether less gripping. In attempting the grand picture, he has sacrificed real depth. In the chapter on Paris he slanders with disproportionate relish over the city's sex life, and who needs to be told that Freud was a "titanic figure in the development of the modern mind"? But Hodgson transmits a real enthusiasm for Europe's collective urban greatness and fascination, its squalor and culture.

Ex-priest writes ex cathedra

Melanie McDonagh

THE NEXT POPE
An Enquiry
By Peter Hebblethwaite
Fount, £5.99 pbk original

Peter Hebblethwaite's slim volume, *The Next Pope*, could be taken as a populist paperback guide for media observers of the next papal election: a trot through the conclaves of the last couple of centuries; a look back at the reign of the present Pope, Pius and minuses; a brief examination of the college of cardinals; and a kind of beauty parade of the most likely contenders for the throne of Peter next time (put your money on the Milanese Jesuit, Cardinal Martini).

He tries hard for an accessible approach: you get, for instance, a jokey and rather perplexing "moral" after the account of each former election. But, despite all his efforts, you detect the sureness of touch that comes from close personal observation of the system over many years. This is still a book from a master of the subject, the author of a remarkable biography of Paul VI. His criticisms of the institution are tempered by love.

Perhaps the most interesting bit of the book is the brief account of the present Pope's reign. Hebblethwaite manifests all the prejudices you might expect. He criticises the Pope's attitude to married priests, though he does not admit to his own interest in the matter, having left the priesthood himself to marry the Catholic writer Margaret



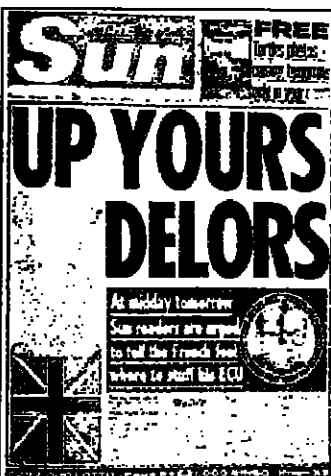
John Paul II: Polish cavalry?

Hebblethwaite, and the omission is not made good in the biographical introduction to the book. He takes a dim view of the Pope's approach to women priests, particularly the apparent attempt to bind his predecessors in the matter, in contrast to the more cautious Paul VI. Quite rightly, he worries about the pervasive influence of *Opus Dei* during this pontificate.

However, he does credit to positive side of John Paul II, whom he compares to the Polish horsemen who charged tanks, a glorious but ultimately futile episode, and this he locates precisely in his Polishness. The Pope is conscious of the social distortions created by capitalism by virtue of his experience of communism; his concern with Jewish relations may stem in part from his personal friendship with Jews and his proximity to Auschwitz. As a Slav, the Pope is sensitive to the different theological traditions of the Eastern churches. These are all wholesome influences on Catholicism, as Hebblethwaite acknowledges.

And what of the future? After the breathless pace of the present pontificate, he suggests it might be no bad thing to have a Pope whose style is more receptive to positive aspects of the modern world. Or perhaps a Pope who returns to his primary pastoral function, that of Bishop of Rome. But the succession is not yet an issue. Despite all the gloomy prognostications about his health, John Paul II is still with us. Peter Hebblethwaite, however, died after writing this book. *Requiescat in pace.*

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Worst enemy of his own promise

Peter Ackroyd on a splendid life of Cyril Connolly, the man of too many letters whose sybaritic career was redeemed by his generosity towards younger writers

Cyril Connolly was, in certain respects, a disappointed man. He aspired to the writing of fiction and serious criticism, but believed that he would be remembered only as a newspaper reviewer. There is nothing wrong with that, of course. It is a fine profession, as they said of Mrs Warren, and being both erudite and generous, he was perhaps the last of his race.

Yet he had wanted to be more, much more, than that. He had wanted to be an artist, not a journalist. But the truth is that he had neither the temperament nor the talent for the former role. He had the gift of creating an immaculate phrase, and then stringing it upon another one, but he lacked what might be called weight. He had no vision of the world; he was only a talented observer of it.

He seems to have arrived ready-made. At school he was described as a "peacock among fowls", and by the time he arrived at Oxford he already carried what Kenneth Clark described as "the millstone of promise" around his neck. He wore it in a very striking fashion; it glittered even in the scintillating company of Brian Howard, Harold Acton and Evelyn Waugh.

Connolly once said that Oxford was "the cloakroom where I left my youth", and with youthfulness he lost any real hope that great things might be achieved. When he entered the world for the first time, he drifted. He abandoned any sense of purpose or direction, although it cannot be said that he had a very firm one in the first place. He was at last rescued by an elderly American literature, Logan Pearsall Smith, who is perhaps best remembered for his aphorism, "An improper mind is a perpetual feast". Connolly became his secretary, always an interesting position for a young man, and was soon introduced to the assorted semi-nomads who then, as now, comprise "literary London". He never guessed that the real work was being done elsewhere. As Virginia Woolf said of another eminent reviewer, Desmond MacCarthy, "Desmond was the most gifted of us all. But why did he never do anything?"

That might have been Connolly's own epitaph. He followed the now well-beaten path of cultured young men: he took up novel reviewing for a weekly periodical, he wrote an occasional essay on a subject of no importance, and made an unsuccessful attempt at a book. Then he married a rich young woman, not a moment too soon, and decided to travel instead. On occasions Clive Fisher describes Connolly as a "romantic", but in fact his own subtitle — "A Nostalgic Life" — is closer to the truth. If there was romance, it was of the cheaper kind that entails pity for oneself and one's own shortcomings. He was simply too indolent and wayward to do anything about it.

So reviewing became his natural element. He went back to the newspapers, but at some point made the cardinal mistake of using the first person singular; there is nothing more depressing than a reviewer who takes himself, or herself, too seriously. Yet he was a clever and sensitive man, so his natural intelligence could not help breaking through — "Reviewing is a whole-time job with a half-time salary," he wrote, "... where nothing is secure or certain except the certainty of turning into a hack."

In fact he did try to be more than a hack, and managed to write a novel to which Fisher wisely allows only four pages. *The Rock Pool* resembles a work by George Orwell which has been heavily rewritten by Walter Pater. *Enemies of Promise* is a much more successful and interesting volume. Here with almost fatal precision Connolly suggests that drink, journalism and domesticity can ruin any aspiration towards literary achievement; more revealing still is the final part of the book, in which he discusses his days at Eton with a certain charming morbidity. In that respect he was typical of his time: it is hard to think of another

generation of English writers who have come so exclusively from the upper middle class and who have been so obsessed with their education. The result was, of course, that many of them remained perpetually immersed in their adolescence.

Certainly this was true of Connolly himself and, in Clive Fisher's account of his amours and alarms, there is no doubt that we find the footprints of a perpetual and often petulant youth. There is a full record here of his philandering, which led to various absurd scenes or confrontations: it seems that people insist upon leading difficult lives when they have very little else to do. He was a man of great intelligence which was consumed in conversation; he was a writer of immense discrimination and judgment, but he consigned those qualities to the obscurity of forgotten reviews.

Perhaps his most enduring claim to attention arises from his editorship of *Horizon* during the Second World War. There are some people who seem ideally suited to the editing of literary magazines — it requires a mixture of low cunning and immense charm — and under his direction that magazine became the single most important vessel of English letters since the days of the great 19th-century periodicals. Connolly published Orwell and Auden and Waugh (the magazine first printed *The Love Song*); he discovered Angus Wilson and Denton Welch.

Yet in the end he tired, as always, of his responsibilities. He drifted away once again. He signed various contracts for the writing of books, few of which were ever fulfilled. He married several times. He lay in the bath, and groaned. He joined *The Sunday Times* as their chief literary reviewer. He was always close to bankruptcy, he drank too much. In fact, prolonged exposure to Connolly's general short can prove wearisome; this is a relatively long book, and there may be a case for saying that Clive Fisher takes his subject a little more seriously — and at greater length — than he properly deserves.



Connolly at home with his daughter; he blamed "the pram in the hall" for his own laziness. His portrait by Stanley Devon hangs on the wall

But it is the only disadvantage in what is otherwise a splendid biography with a distinctive, sparkling and well-written narrative. Fisher's prose is redolent of the period which it describes and, despite the occasional majestic longwindedness, it maintains a broad and persuasive momentum. Cyril Connolly could not have been better served. Possibly he would have liked to have written it himself. But of course he would never have had the energy.

Annihilation and erasure

James Woodall

THE ASSAULT
By Reinaldo Arenas
Viking, £15

THE EVENT
By Juan José Saer
Secker & Warburg, £9.99
paperback original

The Representant has already abolished the night — it's now called "not-night" — and orders his subjects to worship him in vile acts of self-abuse and sacrifice. That he is meant to be Castro is beyond doubt, insofar as anyone in the novel can be called a "person". For those in the know, there are apparently portraits, too, of other Cubans in Arenas's life before he left the island. For the average reader, it is enough just to follow his clawed creatures maiming and slaughtering their way through the novel as clear projections of the author's worst — and most infantile — nightmares.

The ferocity of Arenas's inventive does have an exuberant physicality. This is excremental stuff, though the blurb's comparison with Swift and Rabelais goes too far. But without the wit would be closer to the mark. I just sometimes wished for a joke along the lines of Woody Allen's dictator in his silliest

film *Bananas*, who, sporting regulation beard and cigar, decrees that everyone must now "wear their underpants on the outside" — but that would be far too tame here. There is a serious point to Arenas's satire: *The Assault*'s narrative irrationality, replete with vicious misogyny, should not quite be taken as authorial madness. Arenas wanted rather to represent the consciousness of a wholly politicised world such as Cuba's, where people live in mental terror. But the signs are that Arenas

was so eaten up by bitterness by the time he wrote his last book that it is almost impossible for anyone who has not suffered his degree of humiliation to empathise with his vision.

Juan José Saer is a quieter Latin American. *The Event*, first published in his native Argentina in 1988, is set in the 19th century and follows the fortunes of a telepathist who retreats to the pampas. It is a good novel but not easy: Saer's descriptive prose is relentless and his characters are stiff. Altogether it strains with that wordy self-consciousness which so often dulls one's interest when reading the French New Novelists, who have influenced Saer. But after Arenas's slaughterhouse, Saer's pampas come almost as light relief.

Canada's man of destiny

Rachel Cusk

THE CUNNING MAN
By Robertson Davies
Viking, £15.50

For Robertson Davies, a life is a story. It begins with birth; it ends with death. What happens in between is anybody's guess: an adventure, a quest, a catalogue of mystery, a host of revelations both painful and benign. What is certain is that, once begun, Davies's stories are inescapable. The predilection of fiction is here inextricably bound with that of the individual: over both, a controlling intelligence reigns, threading events along strings of meaning, forging links to make human chains of fate.

The Cunning Man returns to Deptford territory. In its story of three men whose lives have been locked since boyhood in a mysterious orbit, the dance of their fates a choreography of love, chance, intellect, and of course geography: for this is Canada, where parochialism and aspiration conduct their slow arm wrestle, where the foothold of culture is uncertain, where personal liberty is both vertiginous and desolate. The growth of any sort of art in a new country — once colony, now independent but not really firm on its legs yet — is so wobbly and slow. Apart from politics, business and sport, nothing is very much valued here.

This vacuum enacts its own form of determinism; in it, the life of the mind can grow fustianistic and self-critical, but its barrenness can also inflict exaltation and flaccidity. A country in its infancy, a country with no memory, is capable of innocent but nonetheless potent cruelties.

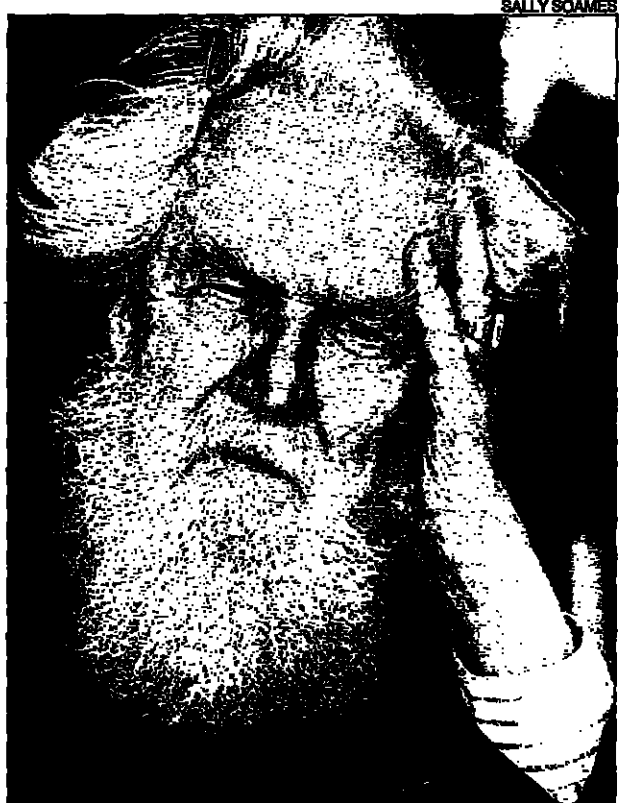
Jonathan Hullah, a successful unorthodox doctor famed for his unusual methods of diagnosis, is the "cunning man", the narrator, whose strange story of self-creation and survival contains the life of his friend Charlie Iredale, and the gentler stagnation of Brocky Gilmarino. As boys, the three were drawn from their disparate backgrounds by the elitist magnet of Colborne College, a private boarding school; they emerged yoked by friendship, their differences refined and focused, and the ensuing pulling and chaffing remains a sometimes faint but still continuous movement beneath the surface of their lives.

Hullah's childhood in the remote northern town of Sioux Lookout, where he became fascinated by the practices of an Indian witch-doctor called Elsie Smoke, contains the germ of his resilience: while his two friends were being preoccupied in manners and mores, acquiring the shells of European culture and religious attitudes in middle-class Salterton, Hullah was in the woods two thousand miles from Toronto. "I liked loneliness and I like it still... what the woods taught me is still at the heart of my life."

What the woods taught Hullah was to develop his instincts for beauty, for pain, for right and wrong, and for truth. His approach to knowledge is empirical — "to learn to see what is right in front of one's nose; that is the task and a heavy task it is" — his appetite for art is selective, and his attraction to religion is part psychoanalytical curiosity, part Platonic appreciation. Brocky and Charlie, however, are both enamoured with the flattery of representation, Brocky as a brilliant professor of literature who can't seem to find the time to write his own book, and Charlie, more dangerously, as a zealous curate whose High Anglicanism topples over into idolatry.

Davies's examination of the subject of spiritual theatre, the extravagant bridge made by beauty between worldliness and Godliness, centres around the church of St Aidan ("So High, indeed, that sometimes it seemed that the Roman Catholic Mass was a simplified version of their sung Eucharist"), where the spung Eucharist has become almost a ticket-selling enterprise, and where Charlie Iredale is set upon the course which will lead to his downfall.

The vision of St Aidan's, Ninian Hobbes, drops dead at the altar after ingesting a



Davies: a controlling intelligence reigns over his fiction

Communion wafer. Hullah, a witness to the event, suspects foul play, but is prevented by Charlie from performing an examination: "We were members of two rival priesthods, he the Man of God and I the Man of Science."

This rivalry intensifies with the success of Hullah's clinic, which lies adjacent to St Aidan's and whose bell outtolls the church's own to signal that a cure for human ills has been found. Hullah's quasi-Freudian approach to diagnosis, his belief that diseases are functions of mind, manifestations of consciousness and character, leads him to stealthy apprehensions of God, "the Divine Reality that we find in our minds... which is imminent, immemorial, and universal". Charlie, beset by visions and evangelical brain-fever, sees God where God is not and is benighted. Sacked from St Aidan's and banished to a remote rural parish, where there is little in organised religion to ravish the ear or eye, he undergoes a physical and mental breakdown.

Robertson Davies is a writer heavy with magic, and *The Cunning Man* will assuredly place any reader under his spell. Few living novelists can claim erudition, compassion, invention and, hardest of all, inimitability, in the same breath. Davies possesses them all, and must stand out as being among the best.

All Greek to her

Michael Arditti

BLACK SHAWL
By Victor Sage
Secker & Warburg, £9.99
paperback original

GREECE as a literary landscape has long been the scene for the romantic self-awakening of people from more northerly climes. Barbara, a 54-year-old woman who has recently undergone a hysterectomy and Kelly, a half-Irish, half-Sioux jewellery-designer, are the two latest fictional tourists to take an Aegean journey that will transform — and transfigure — their lives.

It is one of the nearest consociates of Victor Sage's novel that, although both are travelling to Thessaloniki to visit the same man, Roger, their paths never cross. Their lives are, however, linked not only through Roger but also Antigone, a young Greek feminist lawyer, as free a spirit as her classical counterpart.

The three women's experiences mirror and balance each other: this is the book's finest achievement. Sage inhabits the female body with total authority, but Sage's male characters seem less authentic. With the exception of Vangelis, a touchingly lovelorn widower, they are either

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Crystal Spirit bypasses Ascot

By JULIAN MURRAY

CRYSTAL SPIRIT, a live Grand National candidate, is to miss the Cheltenham Chase on Saturday and head straight for Aintree. The Ascot option falls just seven days before the big race and Ian Balding, who trains the horse, is reluctant to risk the eight-year-old with the National in sight.

Crystal Spirit will one of the freshest horses to face the National starter. Last seen in action when defeating Southolt at Ascot in January, he goes well after a break, as he demonstrated when beating Bradbury Star on his seasonal reappearance at Cheltenham in October.

"He will work again on Saturday and Jamie Osborne is due to school him on Tuesday," Balding said yesterday. "He is very well. I think

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: NICKLE JOE (3.30 Cheltenham)
Next best: Angelo's Double (3.00 Cheltenham)

he goes to the National with a good chance. He is a safe jumper without being over bold, which is what you want for Aintree." Osborne was aboard on the two occasions Crystal Spirit has visited the winner's enclosure this term.

The horse is best served by decent ground, given those conditions, the look attractive, weighted with 10st 12lb, although his owner, Paul Mellon, will not be at Aintree to see him run. "Mr Mellon told me that he used to get jet-lag 30 years ago," Balding said.

"He does not think he'd enjoy travelling from his home in Virginia so I hope the race is transmitted live to the United States. He is getting quite excited about it."

Without winning the National, Mellon, 87, has raced countless horses of merit, most notably the 1971 Derby winner, Mill Reef. He will be



Deep Bramble, who misses the National because of injury, will be aimed at the Whitbread next month

hoping to strike a blow for the younger generation: the late Jim Joel was 92 when naming the prize for the first time with Mount Vernon in 1987. If Balding is backing himself for the thrill, Paul Nicholls has had to contend with major disappointment. Nicholls was yesterday forced to concede defeat in his efforts to rejuvenate Deep Bramble after the horse's poor effort in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, when he was pulled up soon after half-way.

"He pulled some muscles in his shoulder and neck at

Cheltenham," the trainer said. "We have been trying to get him right ever since. He'll come right again, but not in time for Aintree." Deep Bramble, a 20-1 chance before his withdrawal, is to be aimed at the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown on April 29.

Nuaff, trained in Ireland by Pat Fahy, was another casualty in the Gold Cup. The ten-year-old, renowned for his less-than-fluent jumping, came to grief at the ninth fence and has since undergone extensive schooling. "He is in great shape," Fahy declared.

"We've been teaching him to jump from his hocks like a show jumper and he has taken to it well," L'Escarot, in 1977, was the last Irish-trained winner of the National. An unsettled weather forecast has not dampened supporters of Young Hustler. Although the ground at Aintree remains on the soft side, Young Hustler attracted interest with Ladbrokes yesterday and is now a 10-1 shot from 14-1. Meanwhile, William Hills trimmed Minnehoma, last year's winner, to 6-1 from a point long, and

the David Nicholson-trained Dubaich to 8-1 from 10-1. The Grand National bid of Tsuyoshi Tanaka, the Japanese jockey booked for the Committee, was sanctioned yesterday by the Jockey Club in the form of a temporary licence. The British Horseracing Board (BHB) is soliciting ideas from all and sundry on how the sport might celebrate the millennium. The government has established a Millennium Commission with funds of £1.6 billion from proceeds of the national lottery.

Jockeys' title betting halted after Dunwoody rumours

SPECULATION was rife yesterday that the champion National Hunt jockey, Richard Dunwoody, is about to split with leading trainer Martin Pipe.

Dunwoody has missed several rides for Pipe in recent weeks and William Hill has decided to suspend betting on the jockeys' championship after taking a string of substantial wagers on his closest rival, Adrian Maguire.

However, both Pipe and Dunwoody would cold war on the rumours yesterday. "I haven't heard the rumours and I know nothing," Pipe said. "Richard's the one to ask. Nothing has been discussed about next season. There was never any agreement between Richard and myself and whoever wants to leave can."

Another story circulating is that Dunwoody, 31, will retire if Minnehoma wins the Grand National for the second successive year. But the champion jockey said: "There is a lot of rubbish

being talked. Other than that I have absolutely no comment to make."

Talk of a break-up between Pipe and Dunwoody first surfaced at the end of Cheltenham Festival week and was sparked off again yesterday when William Hill reported powerful support for Maguire.

William Hill spokesman, Graham Sharpe, said yesterday: "We've suspended betting on the jockeys' championship because of a



Dunwoody: no comment

considerable sum of money wagered on Maguire this morning. We were taking large amounts of money. Maguire was 6-5 with Dunwoody at 13-8 on 18th morning, but Maguire was then backed down to evens. We continued taking money at that price until a number of four-figure bets started being placed."

"We suspected something might be going on concerned with Dunwoody and decided to suspend the book. It will remain closed until a reason emerges."

Speculation over the split arose initially when Jonathan Lower was preferred to Dunwoody for the Triumph Hurdle winner Kissair. Pipe's only Cheltenham Festival success.

It is understood that several of Pipe's owners have chosen to remain loyal to Lower and other jockeys who deputised for Dunwoody when he served a 30-day ban for an offence of careless riding and intentional interference at Uttoxeter.

CHEPSTOW

THUNDERER
2.00 Midnight Hour, 2.30 Magellan Bay, 3.00 Lancelotti, 3.30 The Bolder White, 4.00 Harrold, 4.30 Synderborough Lad, 5.00 Lottery Ticket.

Brian Beel: 4.30 Synderborough Lad.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

2.00 REAGLES NOVICES HURDLE (2.11.20, 2m 11yds) (25 runners)

1-119 KALLON ABOT 15 (D.S.) J. Doherty 11-8 J. Osborne 89
2-6130 SWEET BETTIE 15 (D.S.) C. Smith 11-10 D. Smith 87
3-4100 MASTER MASTER 15 (D.S.) M. C. Jones 11-10 D. Smith 87

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GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

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Prior Park College), J Boardman (Gresham's),
W Fuller (Wallington GS), J Worsley
(Hatchin Boys), G Wappett (Bradford GS,
captain). Wappett replaced by: M Gofman
(Hybridge College, 16); Cook replaced by: G
Lawson (Stinner, 81).

Scot adopts caution as rival withdraws on run-in to London Marathon

McColgan distances herself from the hype

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

IT WAS a strangely reticent Liz McColgan who was called on yesterday by the Nutra-Sweet London Marathon to look into the crystal ball for the race on Sunday. McColgan, it appears, has given up telling her fortune in public.

For once, McColgan was trying to prevent hype from being her pacemaker. Though she said she was "excited" and "looking forward to getting out there", she refused to talk about how fast she might run, or give details of her recent training.

For all her achievements on the track, at cross country and

impression that the marathon was child's play.

"Brash", Lisa Ondieki, the double Commonwealth champion, called her. "Two athletes with developed egos," David Bedford, the London elite field director, said of Ondieki and McColgan before the 1993 race in which the unassuming Katrin Dörre, of Germany, beat both of them.

A combination of injuries have kept McColgan, 30, away from the international sharp end for two years. Sensibly, in the circumstances, she said yesterday that a victory on Sunday in a competitive field — Dörre is seeking a fourth successive win — was all she was concerned with.

"I am not worried about time at all," McColgan said. "It is a big race and it is more important to win." Briefly, the devil urging her on to mischief reappeared. "But, then again," McColgan added, "if it is fast, I am not worried about that either." Otherwise, McColgan was unassuming.

One injury after another, including knee surgery, have frustrated McColgan, not to mention costing her a small fortune in lost earnings. Any problems now? "Nothing at all," she said yesterday. "I have been in full training for eight months."

Normally, McColgan would go into details. When she did so in New York in 1991, Carey Pinkowski, the Chicago Marathon race director, could not believe his ears. "Her training indicates 2hr 17min," he said. "She could revolutionise the sport."

McColgan was asked to confirm reports of high-mileage running but suggested they were hearsay. "I have not said anything about the training I have been doing," she said. "I do not really want to comment on my training. It is



McColgan, in London yesterday, refused to talk about how fast she might run

in half-marathons, McColgan is still an unproven marathon runner. She has run the distance three times but is not among the 35 fastest women. In the British rankings, she trails Veronique Marot's 2hr 25min 56sec in London in 1989 and Priscilla Welch's 2:26.51, on the same course, in 1987.

McColgan won the 1991 New York Marathon with what was then the fastest debut, 2hr 27min 32sec, but she has yet to improve on that. In New York she talked about breaking 2hr 20min, referred to the achievements of Grete Waitz and Ingrid Kristiansen, as "a stepping-stone, not barriers," and generally gave the

impression that the marathon was child's play.

something now I think I should keep to myself and then no one will say you are doing too much or you are doing too little."

If McColgan can convert her performances in recent shorter-distance road races into a comparable marathon, she should be heading for 2:24 to 2:26. She recorded 48min 59sec for 15 kilometres in February and 69min 49sec for a half-marathon two weeks ago.

However, McColgan said she had been suffering from a swollen windpipe which had affected her breathing in the half-marathon and the race

had been a "big disappointment" to her. Her breathing is fine now.

No sooner had McColgan finished than Peter, her husband, was talking of possible legal action over advice given in relation to one of her injuries. He said that medical specialists had been consulted and, once reports were in, a solicitor would be engaged "to see where we go, if anywhere."

Had she built on her New York Marathon and 10,000 metres world championship success in 1991, McColgan could have expected to earn close to £500,000 a year. Fortunately for her, before her

troubles began, London signed her up to run three of the four marathons from 1993 to 1996 for £450,000.

She appears confident the injury troubles are behind her. Some people have written her off, but she is determined the story will not finish there. McColgan may be encouraged by the example of Derartu Tulu, the Ethiopian who won the women's world cross country title in Durham on Saturday. Tulu had been fighting injury even longer than McColgan, since just after winning the Olympic 10,000 metres in 1992. A knee injury no less.

Niemczak, 29, had already been banned for two years after testing positive for the steroid, nandrolone, at the 1986 New York marathon.

Heel injury forces Ondieki to miss race

By DAVID POWELL

LISA ONDIEKI, runner-up for the past two years, has withdrawn from the race on Sunday because of an injury to her right Achilles tendon, it was announced yesterday. Ondieki's manager, Jos Hermens, notified the marathon organisers on Tuesday afternoon after the athlete had suffered the injury while training in Zurich.

Ondieki, the Australian record-holder with 2hr 23min 55sec, reduces to three the number of women Liz McColgan considers to be rivals for victory in the women's race. McColgan said yesterday that Katrin Dörre, the defending champion from Germany, Manuela Machado, from Portugal, and Renate Kokowska, from Poland, were the athletes she feared. However, Kim Jones and Cathy O'Brien, both from the United States, need to be watched as well.

Although Ondieki's best time was recorded in 1988, she set a New York Marathon course record of 2hr 24min 40sec in 1992 and, after recording 31min 47.11sec for 10,000 metres in December, set an Australian 5,000 metres record of 15min 28.16sec in February. The absence of Ondieki, 34, is a disappointment for the organisers but by no means a devastating blow.

Machado, the European champion and world silver medal-winner, and Dörre, who ran her fastest time of 2hr 25min 15sec in her 31st marathon when she won in Berlin last autumn, are a formidable pair.

Antoni Niemczak, the Polish marathon runner, will be banned for two years pending a hearing by his national federation after testing positive for a banned drug for the second time. Christopher Wimmer, of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, said yesterday that Niemczak had tested positive for the stimulant, ephedrine, at the Tokyo international marathon on February 12.

Niemczak, 29, had already been banned for two years after testing positive for the steroid, nandrolone, at the 1986 New York marathon.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

UNBOND LEAGUE: First division: Aston United v Warrington Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Chorley v Bamber Bridge

SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Feston v Great Yarmouth

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RADIO CHOICE

Theatre with 100m seats

Globe Theatre 95: Banishing Lucifer. Radio 4, 2.00pm.

If they choose to, an estimated 100 million people could listen to Hattie Naylor's metaphysical play. That is the kind of worldwide thing that happens when Radio 4 and the World Service pool their artistic and technical resources. I doubt if the next five plays in the *Banishing Lucifer* series will be as cosmic in theme as *Banishing Lucifer*. The series is universal in audience reach. Kate Fenwick plays the adolescent on each of whose shoulders an angel perches. One is a paradigm for destruction, the other for salvation. They are played by Cathy Murphy and Trevor Peacock. But such is the deliberately ambiguous nature of Naylor's writing that you may end up not knowing for certain which is the goodie and which the baddy.

The Great British Country Music Awards. Radio 2, 7.30pm.

The awards night was staged a fortnight ago at the BBC's Birmingham studios, and I believe there was not an empty seat in the house. Surprisingly, it was the first time a full-scale country music awards ceremony had been seen in Britain. Tonight's recording was predestined for Radio 2; the network has done more than any other to promote the cause of country music. This was acknowledged when one of the awards for the all-time favourite country music star was named the Radio 2/Radio 7 Times award. British Country, which has Coppelde presents on Radio 2 at 10pm, complements the coverage of the Birmingham ceremony.

Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 4.00pm Bruno Brookes 6.30
Steve Wright 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00
Lisa 'Anson', including at 12.30
12.45pm News and Nicky Camp-
bell 4.00pm Clive Wren, including at 4.20
The Amazing Spiderman; and at 5.30
5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session
8.00 Soundbite 10.00 Mark Radcliffe
12.00-4.00pm Mark Tonderai

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Martin Koller 6.15
Pause for Thought 7.30 Sarah Kennedy
9.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce
11.30 Jimmy Young 12.00pm Gloria
Hammond 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John
Dunn 7.00 Marc Blake's Whining for
England 7.30 The Great British Country
Music Awards: See Choice 9.00 Paul
Jones, including bluesman Shirley
and his band 10.00 British Country
10.30 The Jamesons 12.05pm Colin
Barry 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The
Breakfast Programme 8.35 The Mag-
azine, including at 9.40 Film Review;
10.35 Euronews, 11.00 Out Reaction
12.00 Midday with Mar, including at
12.30pm Newsnight 1.00pm News on
Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's
Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale
Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, including
at 7.30pm 20/20 8.00pm News on Five
Cine Rex Goes into... Angling 9.05
Sports America 10.05 News Talk 11.00
Night Extra, including at 11.45 The
Financial World Tonight 12.05am Night
Moves 2.05 Up At The Mountains
12.05am

TALK RADIO

6.00am Maurice Day, Carol McGiff
10.00 Scott Chesham 1.00pm Anna
Reabum 3.00 Tommy Boyd 7.00
Samantha Meech, Sean Bolger 10.00
Cesar 1.00pm Al Kelly

RADIO 3

6.30am Open University: Class in
Britain Today 6.55 Weather
7.00 On Air, with Andrew
McGregor, including
Prætorius (Der Tag verbricht
die finster Nacht); Bach
(Brandenburg Concerto No 1
in F); 7.25 Concert Collection:
Haydn (String Quartet in B
flat, Op 75 No 4, Sunrise);
Scarlati (Sonata in G, K547);
Strauss (Wienpiedler); Bak
(The Garden of Fand)
9.00 Composer of the Week:
Pierre Boulez at 70, presented
by Peter-Paul Nash
10.00 Musical Encounters, with
Chris Wallace, including
(Ancient Arts and Dances,
Suite No 2); Howells (The
Scribe); Ireland (The Hills);
10.25 Artist of the Week:
Dinu Lipatti, piano; Liszt
(Peterson Sonnet 104, Années
de pèlerinage); Monteverdi
(Thai e Clori); Verdi (String
Quartet in E minor); Mozart
(Love is a Sickness, Songs of
Springtime); Warlock (The Full
Heaven); Mozart (Falsch Odetta
in G, K285); Murrill (Songs
from Shakespeare's Twelfth
Night); Gibbs (How can the
heart forget her? Elizabethan
Lyrics, first Singers under
Paul Spicer)
12.00 Ensemble (i)
1.00 The Boston Romantics: The
first programme features the
music of Amy Mary Chaney
Beach. With contributions
from Steven Ledbetter and
Alan Feinberg
2.00 Schools: Radio 3 and A 2.05
In the News 2.25 Something
to Think About — Infant
Assemblies 2.40 The World
Workshop — Music Course 3
Orpheus

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping 6.00 News
Weather 6.10 Farming Today
6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30
Today and 7.00, 7.30, 8.00,
8.30 News 7.55, 8.25 Sport
7.45 Thought for the Day
8.40 Yesterday in Parliament
8.58 Weather
9.00 News 9.05 The Moral Maze,
with Michael Buerk, Times
columnist Janet Daley, Fiebi
Hugo Gryn, Edward Pearce
and David Starkey
10.00-10.30 News: After Eden
(FM only): The final part of
the drama series by Alison
Leonard about a woman
priest. With Christine Pritchard
10.00 Daily Services (LW only)
10.15 Something Understood (LW
only): Bread of Dreams, a
new spiritual anthology. Read
by Susha Brucher and
Armeddeep Kaushal
10.30 Women's Hour, introduced
by Jenni Murray. Serial: The
Normal Heart
11.30 From Our Own
Correspondent
12.00 News: You and Yours, with
Tasneem Siddiqi
12.25pm Questions of Taste (i)
12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick
Clarke
1.40 The Archers (i) 1.55
Shipping Forecast
2.00 News: Globe Theatre 95:
Banishing Lucifer. See Choice
3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope:
Paul Allen reviews The
Memorandum, a play by
Václav Havel
4.45 Short Story: The Shades of
Spring, by D.H. Lawrence.
Read by Peter Winkler
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast
6.55 Weather

RADIO 1: FM 97.8-98.8, RADIO 2: FM 88-90.2, RADIO 3: FM 90.2-
92.4, RADIO 4: 198kHz/21515m, FM 92.4-94.6, LW 198, RADIO 5:
693kHz/433m, 90kHz/233m, LONDON RADIO: 152.4kHz/100m, 152.4kHz/100m,
97.3, CAPITAL: 1548kHz/2194m, FM 95.8, GLR: FM 94.8, WORLD
SERVICE: MW 5495kHz/403m, LW 198kHz (12.45am-5.55am), CLASSIC
FM: FM 100-102, VIRGIN: MW 1215, 1197, 1242 kHz, TALK RADIO:
MW 1089, 1053kHz/Listening compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Murray

Who would have thought a business account with a cheque book could attract this much interest?

Balance	Gross pa.	Gross (CARL)	Net pa.	Net (CARL)
£2,000 - £4,999	3.75%	3.80%	2.81%	2.84%
£5,000 - £9,999	4.25%	4.32%	3.19%	3.23%
£10,000 - £24,999	4.75%	4.84%	3.56%	3.61%
£25,000 - £49,999	5.25%	5.35%	3.94%	4.00%
£50,000 and over	5.65%	5.77%	4.24%	4.31%

You might expect a business account with interest rates this good to deny you instant access to your savings. What makes our BusinessInvestor account stand out from most other business accounts, however, is that it offers both a competitive rate of interest and instant cheque book access. So you can enjoy a satisfying return on your investments, and still gain access to it immediately should you need to. What's more, you can make up to six withdrawals a month free of charge. You can open a BusinessInvestor account with just £2,000. For more details, call 0800 33 55 99, quoting ref DT77, or visit your local Nationwide branch. We think you'll agree it's in your interest.

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SNOWREPORTS

	Depth (cm)	U	Conditions	Plots	Plots to resort	Weather (Spr)	Last snow
AUSTRIA							
Lech	175	330	powder	powder	powder	snow	0 29/3
Mayrhofen	5	100	good	powder	closed	snow	-2 29/3
Obergurgl	60	165	good	powder	outlook good	snow	-8 29/3
							(20cm fresh snow, glorious powder skiing)
FRANCE							
Alpe d'Huez	250	480	good	powder	good	snow	-3 29/3
							(Blizzards on but with powder out of the wind)
Avoriaz	330	420	good	powder	good	snow	-8 29/3
							(Great snow but white-out conditions limit skiing)
Tignes	230	290	powder	powder	powder	snow	-8 29/3
							(Tricky conditions, high winds, poor visibility)
Val Thorens	220	375	powder	powder	powder	snow	-5 29/3
							(Snowing hard, little open, prospects superb)
SWITZERLAND							
Arosa	120	180	good	powder	good	snow	-7 29/3
							(Heavy snowfalls, deep powder, icy skiing)
Mürren	160	280	good	powder	good	snow	-6 29/3
							(Fresh powder everywhere, poor light but outlook great)

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 39

FOLIE DE DOUTE
(a) Pathologically obsessive doubt about anything and everything done by the sufferer. At once the most touching and the most charming of neuroses.

FULSOME
(c) Excessive, cloying through surfeit. As, for example, the wild praise given by a British sports commentator to the performance of the British swimmer who has just come last in the first heat of her event in the Commonwealth Games. Derived from *ful*, it is applicable only to praise. One does not speak of *fulsome abuse* or *fulsome criticism*. The word is changing its meaning because of the widespread belief that it means *whole-hearted* or *generous* (praise). *Fulsome* should be a pejorative epithet.

ENORMITY
(d) Monstrous wickedness, not, as it is often misused, enormity or vastness, or the quality of being enormous. Both *enormous* and *enormity* come from the same Latin root meaning out of the ordinary, but they have drifted so far apart that it has become difficult to use *enormity* in its proper sense without sounding pedantic. "Cheer up, Mary-Anne. To split an infinitive in your first sentence was no doubt imprudent. But in spite of the rage of the readers, it is not such an enormity as they pretend."

DAPATICAL
(b) Sumptuous, delicious, applied to such feasts as those given by City livery companies and Oxbridge colleges, from the Latin *dapes* a feast.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1... Nxe2 3 Kxe2 Bde1 and White is helpless against ... b6 winning the errant knight.

